



HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



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PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS 2017 FOCUS ON RADICAL RENEWAL

As the congregation celebrates its platinum jubilee, which marks the glorious years of its past seventy-five years, it was an opportune time for all the provinces to hold the chapters that were due for the year. The chapters were held in the months of May, June, July and August with the same theme chosen for the forthcoming general chapter: "Radical renewal in consecrated life and mission according to the vision of our Founder." The theme was introduced to all the members of the congregation and it called everyone to have a serious reflection and study on the life and

mission. Besides this, the retreat prior to the Chapters, guided by Fr. Jose Varickasseril SDB helped the members to ponder on the theme and to remain attentive. Fr. Jose based his talks on scripture and had his thoughts neatly presented in a volume titled, 'Sitting in the Lord's presence'. This well thought out work which had eighteen sections facilitated the participants to dwell on each topic and to gain better understanding and new insights. While focusing his talks on different life event of Jesus life and mission, Fr. Jose spoke of the missionary zeal and quest

of Bishop Ferrando for saving souls. In all his talks he highlighted the need to understand the mind of the Founder and urged the members to continue the missionary and catechetical legacy he left behind.

The preparations prior to the Chapters helped the Capitulars to be insightful and focused. And the provincial chapters provided an apt time for reflecting on the important aspects of the congregation's life and mission. It was a call to get back to the roots and to gain insights and wisdom to go forward, re-committing oneself to continue the mission of Jesus.

(Cont'd in page 3)



FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Responding to the Clarion Call

In the course of this jubilee year and the chapters we have been using the word “renewal” with much stress, underlining its importance, and urgency. The Lord who takes us seriously so willed, that we go through a radical renewal in consecration and mission, in ways that we could never imagine. One of the synonyms of renewal is ‘rebirth’ and the process of rebirth calls for the hard and often dreaded process of suffering and death. The ever loving and providing God who has been walking with and leading the congregation for the past 75 years desired to make us sharers in his suffering and death to bring us to rebirth in Him. The radical renewal we have envisaged for the entire congregation seemed possible only through our personal and collective sharing in the paschal mystery of Christ.

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Welcoming the process of renewal is equivalent to accepting the painful process of rebirth, which necessarily involves the process of suffering, death and resurrection: the paschal mystery.

We know well the intensity of suffering we had to face in the recent past, the weight of which continues to weigh on us to this day. At this historic juncture of the congregation, I feel it might be worth reflecting on the varied ways in which we have responded to this call to renewal and

rebirth. Can we say that we responded to this clarion call with great trust and generosity in imitation of our master who willingly stretched his arms on the cross of Calvary for the love of you and me? In our human frailty have we not been tempted to make ourselves poor victims of circumstances? Did we not feel like perpetuating a ‘victim mentality’ by remaining closed up in a vicious circle of self-pity, anger, unforgiveness and desire to terminate? Did we not wish to escape from the actual experience of suffering involved in the process of renewal/rebirth? In spite of such momentary temptations, the Lord enabled us to enter deep into the mystery of suffering and cross: the royal road to radical renewal. During the past weeks we not only contemplated suffering, but we had the first-hand experience of suffering which enabled us to enter deep into its mystery, with our eyes of faith wide open to grasp the length and breath, the height and depth of God’s infinite and personal love for us vividly manifested in myriads of ways. I am sure it made us humble and totally dependent on God, attentive and sensitive to the varied hues and tints of suffering in and around us. It certainly made us compassionate and empathetic towards those who suffer. It seemed to have created in us certain ‘unrest’ to move out of our comfort zone, risking ourselves to identify with those who suffer. It gave us a deeper insight into Christ’s passion, death and resurrection. Most of us may not have any difficulties in comprehending the mystery of resurrection, but many of us may find it difficult to grasp the mystery of suffering and death, the only means the Son man chose to redeem the world. We bow our heads in humble submission to his will and acknowledge His design for each of us and the mother congregation. May



we remain ever attune to the Spirit’s call to renewal and steadily walk the painful path of radical renewal in our consecration and mission.

The call to radical renewal is made easy and possible through our renewed commitment of prayer. It is worth noting how the entire congregation experienced the power of prayer; each and every one of us was urged to pray with our whole being. Nothing prevented us from spending hours with the Lord pleading for his mercy and his intervention. He lets us experience the depth of our frailty and the height of his strength.

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We felt small and helpless and in our utter helplessness we lifted our eyes to Him. Yes, we experienced the powerful presence of the ‘keeper of Israel who neither slumbers nor sleeps’, he kept watch over us and made us feel safe and secure despite the raging sea of tension and turmoil we faced. May His name be glorified now and forever!

***Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior General***



The commencement of 5th Provincial Chapter of Little Flower Province, Bangalore on 28 May 2017 marked a significant event in the annals of the Province. The inaugural session began as all the capitulars and invitees moved to the chapter hall intoning a hymn to the Holy Spirit. It was graced by the presence of Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General, Sr. Nancy Augustine, the General Councillor for Formation, Fr. Joyce Thonikuzhiyil SDB, Provincial

Bangalore

of Bangalore, Fr. Salvadore Fernandes OFM, Rector of Darshan Institute of Theology, Fr. Barnard OSB, Asst. Prior of Ashirvanam Monastery, Sr. Mary Thomas SMMI and Sr. Roseline SMMI from Nirmalagiri and Sr. Mercy Philip, the moderator of the 9th General Chapter. Welcome address, lighting of the lamp and messages by the dignitaries preceded the official opening of the chapter by

the Provincial Superior.

The chapter days were meticulously planned for the study and reflection on consecrated life and mission. Sr. Sharon Packumala ably carried out her duties as the moderator and the capitulars spent their time fruitfully. There were also discussions and deliberations on the concerns of the province. With a firm resolve to live a renewed life, the fifth Provincial Chapter came to its conclusion on 30 May.



The Spiritual retreat guided by Fr. Jose Varickasseril in preparation for the fifth Provincial Chapter of the Mary Immaculate Province Kolkata began on 28 May at retreat Centre, Bandel. There were forty participants and the retreat enabled the members to enter into the Chapter with renewed spirit and vitality. The spiritual retreat was concluded on 3 June, 2017 and on the same evening the capitulars welcomed Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and Sr. Mercy Philip,

Kolkata

the Moderator of the General chapter.

The significant event of the Province the '5th Provincial Chapter' began with a solemn Holy Eucharist by Fr. Nirmal Gomes SDB, Provincial of Kolkata on 4 June at 6.30 a.m. and the inauguration of the Chapter was at 9.00 a.m. as the capitulars and the dignitaries proceeded to the Chapter hall in procession. After the prayer moments, Sr. Molly James,

the Provincial Superior delivered the welcomed address and declared the Provincial Chapter open.

The Chapter days comprised of paper presentations by Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General, Sr. Rose Paite, Councillor for Social apostolate and Sr. Molly James on the state of the Province. There were also group discussions and plenary sessions which finally ended up with setting up of practical goals and formation of action plans.



In the history of the Sacred Heart Province Tinsukia, 2 July 2017 was a great day with the commencement of 10th Provincial Chapter. The Chapter started off on a very pious note with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop Joseph Aind of Dibrugarh Diocese. In his homily, Bishop exhorted the Chapter members to be courageous witnesses to face problems and challenges that may occur when they venture into new missions.

At 8.30 a.m. the capitulars assembled in the Chapel and after invoking God's

Tinsukia

blessings they went in procession to the Chapter Hall led by Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General, who held the lighted lamp which symbolized the light of Christ. Sr. Daisy Jacob, Provincial Superior welcomed officially the dignitaries and the Chapter members and declared the Chapter open. It was followed by messages from Bishop Joseph Aind, Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General, Fr. Nester Guria, Salesian Provincial of Dimapur and Sr. Jessy Nedumala representative of the

Provincial of FMA, Guwahati Province.

The days of Chapter offered the members a serious time for study, discussion and reflection on the theme: Radical Renewal in Consecrated Life and Mission according to the Vision of our Founder. During the Chapter days Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Joseph Aind, Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima Diocese, Bishop George Palliparambil of Miao Diocese, and Fr. Nester Guria SDB, Provincial of Dimapur Province. The Capitulars appreciated their well prepared and inspiring homilies.



Shillong

The Provincial Chapter of Mary Help of Christians, Shillong was held from July 16 to 20, 2017 at St. Margaret's Convent, Peachlands Shillong. It was indeed a time of grace wherein capitulars reflected upon their consecrated life and mission. Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Victor Lyngdoh of Jowai Diocese at 7.00 a.m. preceded the inauguration of the Chapter on 16 July 2017.

At 8:30 a.m. the capitulars gathered in the chapel for personal prayer and preparation for the chapter and proceeded to the Chapter Hall. The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Bishop Victor Lyngdoh,

Sr. Philomina Mathew, Superior General, Sr. Mary Perunilam, Assistant General, Sr. Christine Mynsong, General Councillor for Evangelization, Fr. George Maliekal SDB, Provincial of Shillong, Sr. Biolinda Jyrwa VSDB, Mother General and Sr. Isabella Suja FMA, Provincial of Shillong. Good wishes and blessing from the special invitees of the day were verbalized in the form short messages. Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General set the right spirit of the Chapter through her message to the Capitulars based on the theme of the Chapter.

Throughout the days of the Chapter the delegates experienced God's guiding hands. Their active participation and sharing in the small groups as well as in the general sessions made the Provincial Chapter a great success. The policies arrived at the Chapter intends to help the members of the Province to live their consecrated life more meaningfully and to bring about a renewal.

The Chapter was concluded with a grateful note of thanksgiving to God the Almighty and to one another at the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. George Maliakal SDB, Provincial of Shillong.



Guwahati

The 1st Provincial Chapter of Ferrando Province, Guwahati was held from July 15 to 20, 2017 at Bethel Prayer Centre, Barapani. It provided an amazing, fruitful time to start afresh, laying a solid foundation for the new Province which was inaugurated on 29 January this year. The theme of the chapter, “Radical Renewal in Consecrated Life and Mission according to the Vision of our Founder” was seen most befitting for the occasion to get to the root and to plan for the future of the Province.

The inauguration of the First Chapter was held on 15 July evening, seeking God’s blessings and His guidance. The Capitulars after a brief moments

of prayer in the Chapel at 4.30 p.m. went in procession to the Chapter Hall led by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General who held the lighted candle, followed by Sr. Jane Francis, General Councillor for Education and Sr. Ancila Jose, Economer General with flower bouquets, Sr. Mary Thdavanal, Provincial Superior with the Holy Bible and Sr. Mercy Luke, the Moderator of the Chapter with the Constitutions. The inaugural session comprised of welcome note and declaration of official opening of the Chapter by the Provincial Superior,

message by the Superior General and an audio visual on the Founder’s vision that set the tone for the Chapter days.

The Chapter days were spent fruitfully, delving deep into the theme of the Chapter. The paper presented by the Superior General, sessions by Fr. Thomas Manjaly from Oriens Theological College, Shillong and the presentation of report on the state of the Province by the Provincial Superior followed by discussions in groups helped the members to have a renewed understanding of their life and mission. The last two days were spent for pastoral planning guided by Dr. P.J. Lukose from Assam Don Bosco University.



Tezpur

The historical event of 10th Provincial Chapter of St. Joseph’s Province, Tezpur unveiled its curtain in the morning of 29 August 2017 with a Holy Hour at the Provincial House in Jyoti Bhavan, Tezpur. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Thomas Pullopillil of Bongaigaon Diocese. At 8.45 a.m. the chapter delegates assembled before the Eucharistic Lord for a short prayer and then proceeded to the Chapter hall with lighted candles for the inaugural ceremony.

The distinguished dignitaries who graced the occasion of the inaugural

function were Bishop Thomas Pullopillil, Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew, Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB, the Provincial of Guwahati, Sr. Jane Francis, the General Councillor for Education, Sr. Ancila Jose, the Economer General, Sr. Mercy Philip, the Moderator of the General Chapter and Sr. Kainy Mary FMA, the representative of the FMA Provincial, Guwahati.

During the Chapter days the Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Michael Akasius of Tezpur Diocese, Bishop

Robert Kerketta, Bishop Emeritus of Tezpur and Fr. Sebastian Kunchayil, the Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Tezpur.

The study and reflection during the Chapter was centred on the well prepared paper presented by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and the report of the state of the Province by Sr. Anita George, the Provincial Superior. In view of the present situation, the delegates of the Chapter chalked out many concrete steps to be followed in the Province, Community life, Apostolate and Personal life.



Editorial

Getting to the Roots

Change is a familiar and constant experience to human beings. The world around us keeps changing. We have either witnessed or heard about the dawn and exist of many civilizations or revolutions in the history and the rapid and influential changes they had on the individuals and society. Certainly, change is something that is sought after by the people for bettering their life situation. It is also true that the changes made are not always for the good. Truly, it is inevitable to human life and nature, but more importantly we must try our best to accept these persistent ups and downs and learn to get ahead on this period of transition.

Definitely, change is that one good thing that everyone appreciates to happen in one's life. It means growing, learning, progressing in life, achieving something we never thought possible and thus marching to the new horizon of life. It also brings wisdom and helps us to make more valid choices for life and enables us to be proactive than reactionary. Who does not desire change?

Paradoxically, change can affect us negatively as well. What we perceive around us is the degradation of values and ethos that leads to destruction. Even though there is great progress in all fronts, evil deeds are getting widespread, cry of the innocents are being ignored and there is hardly anyone to speak for the voiceless. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer and the learned and the skilled are busy, selfishly seeking their own narrow interest. There is an obvious disproportion in all aspects of the society. Henry Mintzberg in his book, 'Rebalancing Society' speaks about the need of renewal by bringing an end to the destructive practices by replacing them with constructive ones.

Thought for 'change' or 'renewal' comes with the question on our relevance to the present day. Our Congregation is on the path to bring radical renewal and we have been taking time to understand the present situation of our life to take adequate steps for making the changes. The time invites us to get to know the root of our present problems and be aware of the challenges and threats. It's time to make an inward journey to identify our strength and to renew our hope to be relevant to the present. It calls us not only for having some common interests in pursuit of our mission but also to have common values which binds us together to our roots.

Despite the differences of our individualities, let us unite ourselves to experience newness and greater strength to march forward. Pope Francis while talking about the renewal of the Church stresses the need of increasing its fidelity to her own calling. It is a reminder to be true to its mission to proclaim Christ. As our Congregation takes up the journey of renewal let us take a step closer to Jesus to get a clearer vision of our goals. Let us become aware of our own calling and strive to build a community which stands for the values of the Kingdom.

Sr. Shiji James

TITBITS

GRADUATION DAY AT FIS



The outgoing students after their graduation day programme at Ferrando Institute of Spirituality on 20 June.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED



Little Flower, Hatigaon celebrated the 71st Independence Day and remembered with gratitude the sacrifices of valiant warriors. The sober celebration held at the LFS campus was meticulously planned and organised by the scouts and guides of the school.

FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



Junior Sisters at Hatigaon staging a programme on 24 May to honour Mary Help of Christians.



Blessing and Inauguration of the Institute Block of FIS

20 June, 2017 marked another milestone in the history of Ferrando Institute of Spirituality (FIS) with the blessing and inauguration of its newly built Institute Block.

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General inaugurated the new block by cutting the ribbon while Archbishop Dominic Jala of Shillong invoked God's blessings, unveiled the statue of Venerable Bishop Stephen Ferrando that is installed at its entrance and carried out the ceremony of blessing the Institute Block. It was followed by a solemn Holy Mass officiated by Archbishop Dominic Jala along with other priests present on the occasion.

Heads of the nearby Institutions and Parishes, Major Superiors, Priests, Sisters, and a few invited guests along with the faculty and students of FIS were present for the occasion.

The newly built Institute Block is carefully designed to provide a conducive atmosphere for learning and creative thinking. The campus being set amidst the beautiful landscape with lush green environment, away from the hustle and bustle of the city provides ample space with lawns, pathways, gardens, lake and sit outs.

After the Holy Eucharist was the graduation ceremony and official inauguration of the academic year of the Institute.



Formal Opening of Class XI in LFS



The newly opened Senior Secondary wing of Little Flower School, Hatigaon had its official opening on 14 August, 2017. The event began with an invocation of the Almighty's blessings through a prayer. It was followed by the lighting of the lamp by Sr. Jane Francis, General Councillor for Education. The lighted lamp, which symbolised the light of wisdom was then passed on to the students of class XI and they were welcomed by the Principal and the teachers. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Sr. Jane Francis urged the students to take upon the role of torchbearers and strive forward in pursuit of their goals.



A Time to be with the Divine: Golden and Silver Jubilarians

A month long programme planned for the silver jubilarians commenced on 2 August with a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Bandel and to the tomb of St. Teresa of Kolkata. They were accompanied by Sr. Nancy Augustine, the General Councillor for Formation and Sr. Laila Thomas, Superior of Bethel. Celebrating the Holy Mass for the group at the tomb of St. Teresa of Kokota, Fr. P.V Thomas SDB, Director of Nitika spoke of Mother Teresa as a transfigured woman and exhorted them to strive for holiness and to be transformed into Jesus. The Jubilarians were warmly welcomed by Sisters in Bandel and Ichapur communities. Both the communities felicitated them and raised hymns of gratitude to God for their dedicated service to God and humanity.

On 8 August five golden and twenty three silver jubilarians reached at Bethel, Barapani. Sr. Mary Perunilam, the Assistant General while orienting them to the Jubilee Year said, "Jubilee is the time to look to the past with gratitude, to examine and live the present with passion and to look forward to the future with hope." She challenged them with a question - 'Is Jesus still your first love?'

Sr. Mary Thadavanl, who was the novice mistress of the silver jubilarians animated them for three days. Her sessions guided them to spend the days of preparation meaningfully as she spoke to them about the healing of emotions that enables contemplation on the Love of God.

Fr. George Lanithottam CMF from Rome dealt with the spirituality of consecrated life and mission. He said, "By our consecrated life we are called to become Christ." Describing joy as the hallmark of a person who belongs to God he spoke about the need and possibility of a consecrated person to grow from devotionism to depth and taste, moralism to mysticism, cosmicism to holism, renunciation to love's choice, and knowing to loving.

The Jubilarians received another

rejuvenating time during the Marian retreat guided by Fr. James Mathew SDB from Kolkata. The main theme that ran through the retreat was the wedding at Cana where Jesus turned the disaster into miracle of love. Dwelling on the role played by Mother Mary and Jesus at Cana, Fr. James reminded the group of the need to be constantly aware of the presence of Jesus and Mary in life.

The group had ample time for reflection and sharing in groups about their experiences of past fifty and twenty-five years of religious life.

The jubilee celebration begun at Hatigaon on 31 August as the Jubilarians arrived at Hatigaon, wherein the Superior General along with the members of the General Council and community accorded them a colourful welcome.



MSMHC Educators' Meet at DBI, Guwahati

A three-day Animation Programme was organised for Principals of MSMHC Schools by Sr. Jane Francis, General Councillor for Education at DBI from 25 to 27 August. The goal of the entire programme was to update the heads of the schools on the educational policies and plans. It also meant to provide a forum to discuss on the present day challenges and problems faced by the educational institutions.

A meaningful prayer moments guided by Sr. Shiji James at the start of the programme helped to bring in the right atmosphere. It was followed by a welcome note by Sr. Jane Francis. Briefly explaining about the entire planned three days' programme to the participants, she stressed the importance of their coming together. All the topics and resource persons were carefully chosen to meet the set goal of the programme. The topics dealt with and the resource persons were: 'Education Today' by Fr. Johnson Parackal SDB, 'Education and Legal Aid' by Fr. Ravi Sagar SJ, 'Influence of Media and its Impact' by Sr. Shiji



James, 'Education and its Challenges' by Sr. Marina Thomas, 'Networking to Achieve Educational Goals' by Dr. Basil Koikara, 'Education and Financial Management' by Sr. Ancila Jose and 'A reflection for Educators' by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General. The concluding session by Sr. Jane Francis reminded the participants about the need to be cognisant of the present day changes and to be prepared to meet the challenges.

The programme was informative and enlightening as it paved a platform for the participants to discuss on issues that are important, relevant and crucial for meeting the challenges faced by

education today. The meaningful celebration of the Holy Mass by the Fr. Johnson Parackal and Fr. P.D. Johny on the second and third day surrounded by hundreds of young people left lasting impression on the participants. Besides this, the venue of the programme – DBI that is set on the misty green hills overlooking the majestic Brahmaputra River provided a perfect ambience, giving the participants an awesome experience. Overwhelmed with joy and contentment for having had the chance of attending the programme, the participants thanked Sr. Jane Francis for her genuine concern and interest in giving the best.

Festive Oratory Hatigaon

The community of Hatigaon organised the Annual Festive Oratoray on 13 August at its School campus. About 200 children from various centres that are given assistance by the Junior Sisters during their Sunday apostolate came for the programme. The day's function was organised by the Junior Sisters in collaboration with the members of the General Council and the Community.

The opening ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest of the day, Sr. Philo Simon,

the Superior of Little Flower and representatives from each centre. Sr. Philo in her address to the children motivated them to build their life on firm foundation. Reminding them of their preciousness of life she spoke to them about the importance of discovering themselves and setting goals. She also encouraged them to make use of every opportunity to grow in wisdom and knowledge and to develop their talents to contribute to the world.

Various games and competitions were held after the inaugural function and the winners of the competitions were awarded during the concluding function. The day's programme was ended with a sumptuous meal shared by all present.





Domestic Workers Week Celebrated

Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI), the Social Development wing of the congregation observed a week long Domestic ‘Workers Week’ from 10 to 16 June 2017 with the theme “Domestic Work is Work, Domestic workers are also like any other Workers entitled to Decent Work.” Various programmes

were organized in 12 cities of the region to create public awareness and promote local networking partners to support and improve the living and working conditions of the thousands of domestic workers in the North East. The observation of the week reached its climax with the celebration of International Domestic Workers Day on the 16 June.

Workshops on the chosen theme of the year, round table conferences, press conferences, campaigns and demonstrations through street plays,

rally, post cards, postal and other media campaigns attracted the public attention. These were also given wider coverage by both print and electronic media.

It is believed that in Northeast India alone there are about four to five lakhs of women and girls employed in Domestic work and who are often undervalued and underpaid. Understanding this existing situation, the organization aims at finding a way out for fixing a minimum wage policy in all the states of the region.



Summer camp for Classes IX and X at LFS, Hatigaon

The summer camp organised at Little Flower School, Hatigaon on 3 - 4 July offered a wonderful time for the students of Classes IX and X to take their time off from the hectic chore of the classroom. The two-day programme with the theme: “Called to Believe, Begin and Become” aimed at motivating and inspiring them to have higher goals in life.

The programme began with an invocation, seeking God’s blessing through a devotional hymn and a reading of the scripture passage. It was followed by a motivational talk by Sr. Lincy John, the Principal. Commenting on the chosen theme of the programme she underlined the importance of upholding values, truth and justice and moving forward with the right attitude to contribute to the building up of

the world. She said, “It is our belief, approach and our constant striving to become what God wants of us gives us the ultimate meaning in life.”

The orientation session by Sr. Bernadeth Kropi, YCS/YSM Chaplain, North East Region, inspired the students on the importance of equipping themselves with specific skills to guide and protect themselves from every difficult life situations. Sr. Lisa Chettri in her session enlightened the students with her thought-provoking insights on the topic ‘Human Dignity’. The session on the second day by Sr. Shiji James on media dealt with the pros and cons

of media. Explaining about the hold of media in the life of individuals, she stressed the need of its diligent use.

The students witnessed very fun-loving and enriching afternoons in both the days of the summer camp with party games, dance competition, speech competition and many other interesting sports activities guided by the teachers. It is also amazing to note that it was intertwined with very heart-touching event of interaction with the disabled orphans from ‘Destination’, an organization which looks after their every need. It ended with an act of sharing and caring.



NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Motivational Programme for Adolescents

Considering the importance of providing necessary inputs to the adolescent group, a motivational programme was organized for the adolescents of Ponta Do Ouro community from 3 to 17 August, 2017 in the premises of the Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Self-discovery, building confidence, right understanding of one's own sexuality, awareness on human trafficking and friendship were the topics dealt with in the sessions. The programme was supported by Fr. Jijo Thomas MSFS, the chaplain and it was planned and organised by Sr. Saroj Kindo with the help of Mr. Telino Vulai the animator of the community, Mrs. Percina Vulai, the secretary and Mr. Carlos, one of the youth. About 30 adolescents actively participated and benefitted from the programme.

The target group of the programme was the adolescents as they are in the crucial period of transition.



Understanding the struggles they go through to cope up with the situations they face in the society and family, the programme aimed at helping them

accept themselves and the prevailing circumstances. The sessions enabled them to grow in understanding, taking the best from every experience.

Programme for the Youth in Malkerns

A four-day animation programme was organised for the youth group gathered from various parts of Malkerns and surrounding area from 11 to 14 August 2017 at St. John Bosco Parish, Malkerns. The programme was well thought-out by Sr. Mary Clara Topno with relevant topics that are helpful for guiding and enlightening the participants. The sessions handled by Sr. Mary Clara, Sr. Elsa Joseph, Fr. Murphy and others from the community focused on Christian life, marriage and family, peace and justice, service to humanity and choices in life.

Lighting up the Lives

Hope House, Swaziland



Hope House in Swaziland continues to light up the lives of many who are afflicted with HIV/AIDS and other

terminal illnesses. The Centre is able to accomplish much with the help and collaborations of many generous and good-hearted persons, companies and associations.

On 30 May, members from the Universal Church together with their Bishop visited Hope House, met the patients and staff and prayed with them. They also provided food hampers for all the inmates. Similarly, on 5 June the SEC members from Manzini came to celebrate the 'Environment Day', and on 7 June Mrs. Ann D Silva came to celebrate her 60th birthday.

Hope House also takes initiative in organising regular workshop, training, incidental teachings and health talks on various topics by the staff and professionals.



Delegation Chapter at Turin Lays Emphasis on Renewal in Personal Life

The Delegation Chapter was held from 7 to 9 August in Turin. It was graced by the presence of Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and Sr. Christine Mynsong, the General Councilor for Evangelization.

Prior to the Chapter was the spiritual retreat for five days preached by Fr. Luigi Testa SDB, the Director of the St. John's community, Turin.

Fr. Luigi in his talks stressed the importance of working for the renewal in religious life in accordance with the vision of the founder which is the underlining theme of the Chapter.

The Chapter had a solemn inaugural function at 6 p.m. on 7 August. The special invitees of the occasion were: Fr. Sabino Frigato SDB, Vicar of the Consecrated Life in the Archdioceses of Turin, Fr. Luigi Testa SDB, Rector of the Institute of San Giovanni Turin, Fr. Marek Chrzan SDB, Rector of the Salesian Theological College Crocetta,

Turin and Sr. Elide Degiovanni FMA, Provincial of the FMA, Piedmont.

The Capitulars spent the second and third day of the Chapter in study, reflection and discussion on the chosen theme. Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew in her paper highlighted the importance of going back to the source of Christian life - scripture and traditions, to return to the original inspiration of the religious institute: charism and spirit. She also spoke about the need to adapt to the changing conditions, keeping with the signs of the times and the needs of the people. Speaking about the need to bring radical renewal in every individual member Sr. Christine Mynsong said, "Every Sister, regardless of the situation she is in, should thirst for the renewal in the depth of her being." The Chapter was an eye-opener for all the members to recognize the importance of the renewal in their personal life as MSMHC.

At the end of the Chapter there was a get together of all the members of the Delegation to celebrate the platinum jubilee of the congregation and the name feast of the Superior General.