



HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



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August, 2014

Jubilee Special



Congratulations...

Sr. Gertrude Pde and Sr. Beno Mary Toppo
celebrate the **GOLDEN YEARS** and
Twenty Sisters celebrate
the **SILVER YEARS** of Religious Profession

JUBILEE ... a time of thanksgiving and praise





MESSAGE

Jubilee ... a time to count and recount God's blessings!



Jubilee year grants opportunity to pause and ponder on God's gifts – life, call and mission. It is indeed an auspicious occasion for thanksgiving! It's a moment of grace, calling us to a deeper understanding of His love and faithfulness. It's a time for jubilation - a time to rejoice at the marvels God has done in our lives.

I thank God and rejoice for the wonders he has done in the lives of 22 of our Sisters celebrating their golden and silver jubilee of profession this year. It's a moment to thank the Almighty for their vocation and their life of service. It's indeed a time to celebrate God's working in their lives and His love, which has been the core of their commitment and mission. I see this occasion as the most fitting moment to acknowledge their generous giving and the selfless sacrifices they made for the mission they were entrusted with by the Congregation.

We have this year Sr. Gertrude Pde and Sr. Beno Mary Toppo, celebrating their Golden Jubilee of profession. I thank God for what they are today and for the golden years they spent in the Congregation, relentlessly working for the spread of God's Kingdom here on earth. Following the footsteps of our beloved father and founder, their life too is characterized by a life of prayer and union with God, a deep love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and devotion to our Blessed Mother. In all their trying moments they relied on the grace of God and trusted in His providence and care. They have led a life of simplicity, docility and fidelity. They kindled the flame of God's love and brightened the lives of those around them.

Our twenty silver jubilarians speak of the faithful love of God that led them to this time of grace and thanksgiving. I thank the Lord for each of them and for their generous service during the past twenty-five years of their religious life. They believed in a God who filled their hearts with His love, goodness, and above all His ever abiding presence. They have shown the way by living their life in humble submission to God's will and carrying out their duties with courage and goodwill. They loved the people to whom they were sent and made known to them the infinite goodness of God. Theirs were the services rendered without expecting a return. I appreciate their goodness and thank them for the rich contribution they made to the Church and to the Congregation.

Jubilee year brings occasions to create precious memories. It is an year to count and recount God's blessings... an year to strengthen the commitment. It is a fitting time to join the family, friends and well-wishers to thank the Almighty for all that He has done. Above all, it is also an occasion for homecoming, recommitment and renewal.

May the God who called them to be His own, bless and reward them for the faith filled witness of their life. May He continue to guide their path and let them know always His faithfulness and love that's timeless and ever new!

Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior General

Jubilarians receive a grand welcome to the Generalate at Hatigaon



Jubilation and elation begins...

A band of flowerians (Students of Little Flower School) strikes the right chord of melody at the arrival of the Jubilarians on the evening of 28 August, and they are warmly welcomed by the Superior General and her team, accompanied by the entire members of the Community of Hatigaon.



The flowerian band marches ahead guiding the entire group from the School gate to the Generalate.



Colourful Reception...

The Junior Sisters display their creative genius in offering a meaningful welcome to the entire group. Their MSMHC Airline services, which was ingeniously planned and executed under the guidance of Sr. Asha Mao, the Directress, gave the Jubilarians an exciting experience of recalling the past days of their journey through thick and thin.



Traditional Welcome

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General welcomes each of them with Japi and Phoolon Gamosa.



The traditional welcome was followed by a colourful programme by the Junior Sisters and a band display by the Flowerians.



The Jubilarians had a meaningful day on 29 August at the Generalate. Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General joins them in the morning hours, reflecting on the life and mission.



Moments of grace...

The evening of 29 August was made significant with a beautiful setting, leading to surprises... A prayer service was creatively organized by Sr. Rose Jolly James and Sr. Shelma Kuriakose, together with other members of the community, leading them to a delightful experience of being with the Lord in thanksgiving.



Followed by the prayer service was the surprise welcome to the dining hall that was artistically decorated. While the Junior Sisters voiced their melodious songs of entertainment, the community members, led by the Superior General played the role of diligent waitrons to the Jubilarians.



An informal get-together was arranged after dinner at the roundana in the Generalate, to congratulate and wish the Jubilarians. Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew addressed the gathering and along with the members of her Council, greeted each of the Jubilarians with a gift as a token of appreciation and love.

JUBILATION AND THANKSGIVING ...



The morning of 30 August was the climax of the Jubilee celebrations. A solemn Mass was held at 10 am presided over by Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, concelebrated by other priests.

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At the start of the Holy Mass, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General, welcomed everyone and introduced the significance of the occasion. She congratulated the jubilarians and thanked them for their dedicated service.



The meaningful liturgy with special prayers, singing and music offered an elevating experience to the Jubilarians and everyone present on the occasion.



Felicitation ...

The liturgy was followed by felicitation ... offering of bouquets, cutting of jubilee cake and joyful greetings.



A sumptuous meal after the Holy Eucharist and felicitation united everyone around the Jubilarians.



A journey with the Founder...

The evening of 30 August gave an experience of walking with the Founder as the Junior Sisters presented a beautiful musical on Bishop Stephen Ferrando – His life and missionary expeditions.



With grateful hearts....

At the end of the programme, the Jubilarians thanked everyone. They began by saying, “It’s a year of the Lord’s favour... we proclaim God’s glory and His faithfulness during the bygone years...”



Concluding the celebration, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General once again congratulated the Jubilarians and thanked them for their faithful life and service. She urged them to imitate the Father and Founder Bishop Stephen Ferrando, who shines as an example for all.

Fr. K.A. Joseph, SDB, former Provincial of Delhi, who was present for the celebration was specially invited by the Superior General to address the Jubilarians. He expressed his surprise at the Congregation's manifestation of love for the Founder and encouraged the members to keep up the fervor and remain rooted in the spirit of the Congregation.



OUR GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

Sr. Getrude Pde was born at Laitkynsew in the state of Meghalaya as the second child of her beloved parents. She has five brothers and four sisters.

She has rendered services in communities of Malki, Nongpoh, Umsohlait, Khliehriat, Mairang, Shallang, Mawroh Novitiate and Newland as the animator of the community, teacher, Boarding Assistant and Touring Sister. She found joy in carrying out her duties with exactitude and care. At present she is in Stephen Memorial Convent, Mawroh, where she spends most of her time in prayer. Convinced of the goodness of God in her life she loves to keep repeating, *“The Lord is my Shepherd I have everything I need.”*



Sr. Beno Mary Toppo was born at Sursa, Mandar Parish in Jharkhand as the first child of her beloved parents. She has three sisters.

Sr. Beno had been to Borpukhri, Tetenbari, Baghmara, Rongjeng, Bhagalpur, Tikrikilla, Rongkhon, Chokpot, Agiamur, Dalu, Williamnagar, Barapani in the capacity of animator of the community, nurse, teacher and touring sister. Her present community is Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Barapani, where she cheerfully goes about offering help in the dispensary and boarding. She finds joy in uniting herself with the Lord in prayer. Her motto is to sing praises to God with all her heart. Acknowledging the faithful love of God in her life she exclaims, *“How wonderful your love for me O Lord, I thank you for your countless blessings upon me. I thank you for all that I have, all that I am”*.

May the precious years of your life of service be a source of joy as you celebrate your Jubilee. May God's richest blessings be yours...

PREPARATORY DAYS AT 'BETHEL'



The Jubilarians were initiated to an enriching time of preparation for the Jubilee year on 2 August at Bethel, Barapani, Shillong. The four week-long programme (2-28 August) was meticulously planned and organized by Sr. Mary Perunilam, the Assistant General. Besides the input sessions by different persons, the group had ample time for sharing their experiences of the past. The sharing of each one focused on personal growth, community life and mission, opened up a time to understand one another and to re-establish their bond.



The sessions during the preparatory days at Bethel dealt with different topics such as Prayer and contemplation by Fr. Albert S.J, Mid-life transition by Sr. Ancy John msmhc, Psycho spiritual integration by Sr. Jancy Joseph msmhc, Spirituality of mission by Sr. Rose Paite, General Councillor for Social Apostolate, Spirituality for women by Sr. Tessy Joseph msmhc, Call to Holiness by Sr. Mary Perunilam, Asst. General, and Challenges in the mission field by Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General. There were five days of special sessions on Healing and deliverance by Fr. Aji Cherian MSFS, that offered them a spiritual experience.



They also had days of outing which was thoughtfully planned to give them memorable experiences of being together. Their visit to Ferrando Institute of spirituality, Chirapunjee, Peachlands, Malki, Umroi, Mawroh Novitiate, Shelter Home, etc. were occasions of joy and cheer. In all those centres, they were specially welcomed and felicitated.

The closing days (21-28) of the programme at Bethel were spent in retreat and prayer, guided by Fr. John Karondukadavil MSFS. The group was led to reflect on simple, ordinary things which are to be counted in life as the most essential things for leading a meaningful life.



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Celebrating 50 and 25 years of dedicated service to the Lord,
the Church and to the Congregation



The Jubilarians with the Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew and the members of the General Council



*Thank you for your
faithful service, many sacrifices
and for the many ways
you have been a blessing
throughout the years!
May God's continued blessings
be upon you today
and in the years ahead.*



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