



HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



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FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Leaving Comfort Zones to Reach Out

Pope Francis has declared year 2015 as the year of Consecrated Life. Through this he calls the Church's religious priests, brothers and sisters, to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. It is important to know the underlying meaning of this call by understanding one's vocation and mission. It is a call to revamp one's personal life and the world around. Emphasizing on living a life that has witness value he said, "Religious life ought to promote growth in the Church by way of attraction. The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting! It is possible to live differently in this world." Living a life of witness demands one to live an authentic life, which corresponds to one's words and conduct. It is a call to go beyond, in order to reach out to the world in need.

One important aspect of reaching out is to leave one's own comfort zones. In his message for Lent this year, Pope Francis wrote: "Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others: we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings

and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of globalization of indifference."

Today, the world is growing into the extremes: rich and the poor. The 'rich' who is materially wealthy are poor in the heart. They form a minority group, taking for themselves the major portion of the world's wealth. Even though they enjoy worldly comfort, they are deprived of spiritual wealth such as peace, joy, serenity and contentment. There is a great need to reach out to them with mercy and love. The 'poor' who is out of the reach to any resources for their wellbeing keeps growing in numbers. There aren't many who reach out to them or stand by them. As the world is seen growing richer, they are pushed to the margins. Explaining the need to reach out, Pope Francis said, "We need to come out of ourselves and head for the periphery. We need to avoid the spiritual sickness of a Church that is wrapped up in its own world: when a Church



becomes like this, it grows sick. It is true that going out onto the street implies the risk of accidents happening, as they would to any ordinary man or woman. But if the Church stays wrapped up in itself, it will age. And if I had to choose between a wounded Church that goes out onto the streets and a sick withdrawn Church, I would definitely choose the first one..." It is essential that we leave our comfort zones to reach out to the needy of today.

Pope Francis' call to all the consecrated persons is to live the reality of the poverty amidst them and to reach out to all with compassion and understanding. Therefore, let us make every effort to go out in action through prayer, advocacy and generosity.

Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior General



YAC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Little Flower, Hatigaon was all set to host the mega event of the year, the YAC National Convention, 2015. The three-day event began with the hoisting of the YAC flag at 9.30 a.m. on 16 April by Archbishop, John Moolachira of Guwahati Archdiocese. It was followed by a meaningful inaugural function organized by the Junior Sisters of Hatigaon. Around 400 YAC members and animators from various centers of the five Provinces of MSMHC in India participated this national event.

The liturgy celebrations were

made solemn with melodious choir and special prayers. Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, Thomas Menamparampil celebrated the Holy Eucharist on 17 March. In his homily, he spoke on the importance of being an instrument of peace. He said that, the young people are capable of playing a vital role in promoting peace and harmony in the society. The last day's Holy Mass was by Fr. V.M Thomas SDB, the Provincial of Salesians of Don Bosco, Guwahati. He guided the group to a meditation and continued with

the Holy Mass. In his homily he emphasized on the need of being transforming leaders among the peers.

The three-day convention consisted of input sessions and varieties of activities that were informative and entertaining. Archbishop Emeritus, Thomas Menamparampil, Sr. Philomena Mathew MSMHC, the Superior General, Sr. Christine Mynsong MSMHC, General Councillor for Evangelization, Fr. Raphael Maiong, Fr. Ravi Sagar SJ, Fr. Melvil Pereira SJ, Sr. Martina Thabah MSMHC and Sr. Regina





Mareem MSMHC were among the resource persons.

Sr. Philomena Mathew MSMHC, the Superior General in her session spoke on the Word of God and the role of youth in the Church and society. She stressed on the importance of learning, reflecting and praying the word of God to become effective proclaimers of the Good News to the whole world, especially the youth.

The YAC members were lucky to have reflections on peace building by the Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, Thomas Menampampil, who is known for his continued commitment to have peace, reconciliation and stability in Northeast India, an area full of territorial and ethnic conflicts. Addressing the

gathering, he spoke about the nitty-gritties of peace building. He emphasized on the aspect of being at peace with oneself before working for peace building. He also gave tips on how one can build peace and deal with one's own anger and other negative emotions by channelizing them positively and by having control over the situation.

Being aware of the importance of instilling knowledge on 'discernment', which is crucial for today's young people, Sr. Christine Mynsong, General Councillor for Evangelization, focused on giving some tips on discerning one's vocation. She also discussed with the group on adolescent issues and gave guidelines to deal with those, and explained the ways to enhance

relationship skills.

Sessions after lunch and dinner were comprised of different activities by the participants: Bible skits, SCC Prayer and Gospel Sing Out. There was presentation of different cultural programmes that intended to help the participants learn more about other cultures. Another special occasion that impressed everyone was the exhibition on the missionary involvement and activities of the YAC in various units, presented by the delegates of the five Provinces.

The convention was concluded on the third day evening with prize distribution and vote of thanks. Prizes were given to the winners of different activities: quiz, exhibition, skits and dances.

Fr. Fabio Attard General Councillor of SDB Visits Hatigaon

Fr. Fabio Attard SDB, General Councillor for Youth Ministry in the Salesian Congregation, along with Fr. V. M. Thomas SDB, the Provincial of Salesians of Don Bosco, Guwahati, visited Hatigaon on 7 March, 2015. In his brief address to the Sisters, he spoke of the need to build a strong foundation in order to meet the challenges of today. Appreciating the Congregation's new ventures in African countries, he emphasized on taking up many more such initiatives for the expansion of God's Kingdom.





Bro Mario Joseph Speaks of the Divine Intervention



Bro Mario Joseph from Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor addressed the Sisters of Hatigaon on

12 January, 2015. Describing the marvels God worked in his life, he spoke of God's intervention in his life. Sharing his experiences of encountering God, he stressed on the need to trust in his abiding love.

Mario Joseph was a Muslim imam from Vayanad, Kerala, who learnt Quran and finding the mention of Jesus in it, kept searching more about Him. Having come to know the truth about Jesus, he accepted Him as the Saviour. After he became a Christian, he underwent torture from his father who even tried to kill him. Today, he is a charismatic preacher in India.

Reaching out to Victims of Violence

Violence spread in Assam's Kokrajhar and Sonitpur districts early this year, as a result of ethnic clash between the Bodos and Advises killing several and leaving hundreds homeless. In an effort to offer some consolation to the distressed, Sr.

Ancilla Jose, Economer General, along with a group of Sisters visited the victims of ethnic violence in Kokrajhar on 10-11



January. They distributed clothes and spent time with the affected people, listening to their sad plight. The Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI), under the leadership of Sr. Rose Hauniang, General Councillor for Social Apostolate also undertook a number of visits to render timely assistance to those in need.



Animation for New Animators

The new animators of the communities had an animation programme from 17 to 22 April, 2015 at Hatigaon, coordinated by Sr. Mary Perunilam, the Assistant General. The week-long programme was packed with sessions on different topics that aimed at guiding the sisters to execute their responsible role as the animators of the communities.

Besides the sessions by the Superior General and the members of the General Council, Sr. Jancy Joseph, Sr. Rose Jolly James and



Sr. Martina Thabah enriched the Sisters on different themes. The entire sessions of the second day

was taken by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General. She explained in detail about the

important role of superiors in the community and told them of the need to build communities that are exemplary, praying, observant, fraternal and apostolic. She touched upon the essentials of religious life and said that an animator should be a good human being, a convinced Christian and a sincere religious.

Salesian Family Meeting Turin

The year 2015 is significant for all the members of the Salesian Family as it celebrates the bi-centenary year of the birth of Don Bosco. It calls for a renewal and re-commitment to the founding Charism. This remarkable occasion brought all the Superiors General and Co-ordinators of the various groups of the Salesian Family to Turin on 31 January to 1 February, 2015 to re-imbibe the spirit left by him to his sons and daughters. Sr. Philomena Mathew,

The last day's sessions were taken by Fr. Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, MSFS. He spoke about the Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium), the teaching of Pope Francis on the proclamation of the Gospel. He said that through this apostolic exhortation, Pope Francis is calling upon the Church and the world with encouragement to

begin a new chapter in evangelization. It also addressed the consecrated persons to 'Wake up' and to be 'Mystics'. Commenting on it Fr. Emmanuel said that a mystic is a person who lives with God, moves by the Spirit, remains dynamic and makes positive changes in the world.



the Superior General was present for the occasion as part of this large family of Don Bosco. This event provided a platform to get to

know each other better and to renew each one's communion and of belonging to Don Bosco and the Salesian Family.

Ferrando Holistic Centre for Su Jok Therapy

Ferrando Holistic Centre for Su Jok Therapy at Bullarpar, Guwahati was inaugurated by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and blessed by Fr. Siby Kadamthode CMF, Parish Priest



of St. Claret, Borjhar, on 24 February, 2015. Sr. Monica George who has mastered the technique of this treatment, along with a support team runs the

Centre, offering holistic healing.

Su Jok therapy was developed by a South Korean Scientist Professor, Park Jae Woo. It is more than just a method of treatment: it is a way of comprehending the basic laws of life, a method that links the classical science of the West to the knowledge accumulated by original medicine from ancient times. The high effect and simplicity of Su Jok therapy favour its rapid spreading in various countries.





Refresher Programme for Formators

A five-day animation programme was held for formators, organized by Sr. Nancy Augustine, General Councillor for formation, at Hatigaon on 2-6 March 2015. Fr. Emmanuel Uppamthadathil MSFS, Fr. Xavier Paul and Fr. Thomas Lakra were the resource persons. They also had input sessions by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and Sr. Nancy Augustine.

Fr. Emmanuel dealt with the topic, 'Religious life in the third millennium'. He stressed on the importance of following the original spirituality of Jesus which gives thrust on three aspects: 1) Knowledge / Experience of God, 2) Freedom and 3) Love. In this regard he said, "We are consecrated to Jesus Christ, and so we have to visualize Jesus' spirituality which is based on experience of God, freedom, and love." He also emphasized the



need to become mystics who remains rooted in God and dynamic, creating positive energy.

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General spoke on 'MSMHC formation'. Putting forward some of the major challenges faced today, she reminded the Sisters of their duties to educate and accompany the formees by providing moral, spiritual and intellectual formation.

Fr. Xavier Paul spoke on the importance making personal efforts to become persons of God. He told them that, Formators should always pray to Jesus, trust

on His love and blessings. He further said, "We need to pray always telling Jesus to fill us with his divine love and always acknowledge that we are created by God to praise, revere and serve Him, and by this means save souls of our own and that of others."

Fr. Thomas Lakra SDB, Vice Provincial of Guwahati, focused his talk on five key points which are essential for all the stages of formation: 1) formation to affective maturity, 2) motivation to religious life, 3) personal profile, 4) positive emotional maturity and, 5) psychosexual integration.

International Congress of Salesian Pedagogy



An International Congress on Salesian Pedagogy, with the title, "With Don Bosco, educators of

young people of our time", was held in Rome on 19-21 March, 2015 hosted by the Salesianum and UPS. It was one of the major events of the Bicentenary Year of Don Bosco's birth, intended to reflect on education and its typically Salesian values that are still very timely. This three-day event gathered members from the Salesian Family and others who were among those interested in pedagogy and education in the



Church and in society. The event was participated by Sr. Martha D' Rosario, Delegate Superior of Italian Delegation and Sr. Shelma Kuriakose, Headmistress of Little Flower School, Hatigaon.

St. Joseph's School in Andhra Pradesh Turns Silver

St. Joseph's School at Emani in Andhra Pradesh celebrated its 25 years' presence, with a unique Silver Jubilee celebration on 14 February, 2015. Sr. Jane Francis, General Councillor for Education and Sr. Philo Simon, Superior of Hatigaon Community represented the Generalate. The chief Guest of the function was Most Rev. Dr. Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur and President of the function was Sr. Jane Francis. The occasion was graced by many distinguished guests, friends, benefactors, political leaders, students, teachers, past pupils, fathers sisters and well-wishers from near and far.

Sr. Jane Francis, in her speech on the occasion congratulated Sr. Regi Chacko, the Headmistress,



whose Silver Jubilee of Religious profession was also celebrated on the same day, and placed on record the presence of the MSMHC sisters for the past 25 years in Emani, contributing greatly towards the welfare of the poor children and the society at large. "The management and the teachers led the institution with a vision", she said, appreciating the

good works that are being carried out in the place. Reminding them of the educative mission of the MSMHC that gives thrust on educating persons with character and competence to build a civilization of love, she invited the parents, friends, well-wishers and the past pupils to do their best for the welfare the School which caters service to all.

Investiture Ceremony at LFS, Hatigaon



Little Flower School, Hatigaon had the investiture ceremony for

the newly appointed student leaders on 22, April 2015. On the occasion, while addressing the assembly, Sr. Jane Francis, General Councillor for Education, highlighted the role of leaders in this competitive world. Quoting a Chinese proverb she said, "An army of a thousand is easy to find, but, ah, how difficult to find a general." She also talked about the famous saying of Faye Wattleton, "The only safe ship in a storm is leadership" and reminded them of their duties and responsibilities.

Provincial Economers' Meet

Provincial Economers of all the Provinces, together with the General Finance Committee had a day of animation and meeting on 14 February 2015 at Hatigaon. Sr. Ancilla Jose, the Ecomer General was the resource person. She updated the Sisters on some of the important matters concerning financial management and administration.

EASTER VIGIL 2015

The community of Hatigaon had a meaningful celebration of Easter Vigil Mass presided over by Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely, Vicar General of Guwahati Archdiocese.





Faith Sharing Exposure Programme

Archdiocese of Guwahati organized a faith sharing exposure programme for the fornees of all the formation houses in the Archdiocese from 24 February to 1 March, 2015 at Tamulpur Parish, in Baksa District of Assam. The programme had above 400 participants from various Congregations that are rendering service in the region. The Junior Sisters from Hatigaon, along with Sr. Jancy Joseph and Rani Mathew took part in the programme. The participants were divided into various groups and each of the group was allotted a village each to reach out to everyone.

Before the start of missionary journey by each group, the whole group was given inputs by the Archbishop John Moolachira and Archbishop Emeritus, Thomas Menamparampil. They reminded them to be persons prepared for the journey by expecting the unexpected, to become love bombs that can break forth into pieces and to share the love and mercy of God in the lives of people. They were also told of the importance of being good listeners and peace builders.

During the course of their programme, they had sharing of experiences by a number of



persons who are veterans in faith formation, especially in Northeast India. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo of Tezpur Diocese, Bishop P.K. George of Mio Diocese, Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil of Bongaigaon Diocese, Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General and Sr. Christine Mynsong, the General Councillor for Evangelization were among those addressed the participants.

One of the junior sisters, Sr. Sumitra Basumatary said, "The exposure programme urged me to break off the cocoons of my self-reliance, independence, competency and fly out into the world of collaboration interdependence and mutual enrichment. It took me out of the comfort zone to the periphery of the world to discover the face of Christ in the poor and the lonely, in the simple and the ordinary, in the aged and the abandoned of our

society." Added to this, Sr. Sengchina Sangma said, "I was touched by the simplicity of people, their longing to have someone listen to them, and above all, the power of the Good News to attract everyone to the person of Christ."

Elevated by the enriching experience, Sr. Niru Kerketta described, "This programme enabled me to see richness in poverty and poverty in richness, to discover the God of opposites, the God of harmony and contradiction. This programme has enriched me with knowledge and strengthened my commitment to the person of Christ and His mission. It has broadened my outlook to be positive in my attitude towards those in the mission field, humble in my ability to give and take and open in my relationship to welcome difference."



NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Superior General Meets Italian Delegation

After the Salesian Family meeting in Rome on 2 February, 2015, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General met the Delegation Council and the animators of the communities of Italian Delegation. She shared her rich and inspiring experiences of the days spent in the company of Rector Major Don Angel Fernández Artime, the 10th successor of Don Bosco, and all the Superiors General and Co-ordinators of the various groups of



the Salesian Family. She exhorted the members to have a sense of belongingness to the Salesian Family. She urged them to imbibe the true spirit Don Bosco by creating occasions to learn about him and know him.

Reminding them of their privilege to be at the place where Don Bosco lived, she suggested them to take opportunities to visit some of the historical places that speak much about his life and mission.

MSMHC Delegation at Chieri for Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to Chieri on 16 April, 2015 was a well-thought out journey undertaken by the Sisters of Italian Delegation. Being the birth centenary year of Don Bosco, the trip offered to them an insightful experience of remembering the great saint. Chieri, near Turin, is a city of about thirty thousand inhabitants, located in the east of the capital, at the foot of the hill of Turin, on the southern edge of the hills of the river Po. This place remains significant to the Salesian family, as it speaks volumes of Don Bosco's life from 1831 to 1835. It was in this place that Don Bosco



received his formal education, living a hard and tedious life.

The pilgrimage united the Sisters from various communities - Pancalieri, Moretta, Crocetta, Piossasco, Arcivescovado,

Valsalice, Arenzano, Sampierdarena, Cassine, Acqui Terme and Gallarate. They were extremely happy to get-together and to visit the holy and historical place.

Exposition of The Holy Shroud at Turin

The inauguration of the exposition of the Holy Shroud in Turin was on 19 April, 2015; it is to last until 20 June, 2015 during which millions of pilgrims come from all over the world to have a glimpse of the Holy Shroud and to pray before it. The Sisters of Delegation had the occasions to be at the holy place to seek God's blessings and to pray for the entire Congregation and for the whole world.



Updates from Johannesburg

The community of Ferrando Convent, Clonlea, Johannesburg is attached to the Youth Centre of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The members of the community, Sr. Bina Basumatary, Sr. Rose Mary K. and Sr. Sabrina Hynniewta offer their services in various capacities at the Youth Centre and

in Don Rua Primary School. Sr. Bina carries out administrative works of the centre as it offers residential programme, Sr. Rose teaches in Don Rua Primary School and Sr. Sabrina joins to assist the Youth Ministry team (YMT) and Youth Pastoral Team (YPT), conducting various programmes that are informative and educative for the youth. One of the initiatives introduced by Sr. Rose at Don Rua Primary School

is the 'Math's Camp' for grade 6 and 7 students. This is a residential programme of 15 days, which aims at giving a strong foundation for students in mathematics.

Besides the regular catechism classes on Sundays at the Divine Mercy Parish, the Sisters are engaged in the week-end programme for children coming from different parishes to prepare for confirmation and first communion.



Intensive Catechism Class at Sigcineni Swaziland

Srs. Susan Soren, Teresa Krocha and Dimaya Mary Amdep organized a four-day intensive programme during the summer vacation, for children, youth and adult of Sigcineni village, one of the farthest villages in Malkerns

Parish. They went from Monday to Thursday, 27 - 30 April. Sr. Susan Soren who is in-charge of the catechesis, conducted the classes along with the Sisters and two of the Lady catechists, Bongile Nxumalo and Lungile Khumalo. The classes aimed at giving an in-depth knowledge on the Ten Commandments of God, Liturgical Seasons, benefit of participating in the Holy Mass and the importance of

cultivating devotion to Mary and on the need to pray the Rosary. The participants were very receptive and showed much interest to attend the classes. On the last day, the Sisters conducted quiz on the related topics and the winners were awarded. They also gave for all the participants some small gifts as a token of appreciation for their participation.



"This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the good."

— Pope Francis



World sick day Celebration at Hope House Swaziland

The Hope House had the celebration of the World sick day on 11 February, 2015. It comprised of sharing the Word of God and prayer service, followed by the anointing of the sick by Fr. George Massa. There was also some sing songs by the clients.

Hope House is a faith based charity center of the diocese of



Manzini, serving as a hospice, a home for the terminally ill, HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS related illnesses. The center serves as a half way- house between hospital and home for those in need. It also has a children's unit which cater to the poor children who are ill and



whose parents are unable to care for them. The Government of the kingdom of Swaziland, the city council of Manzini, the diocese of Manzini and Caritas Swaziland have awarded the Centre for the dedication, commitment, cleanliness and love by which its



members carry out their mission in Swaziland. Sr. Elsa Joseph, the Director of Hope House, renders her whole hearted service to these poor and ill clients. She takes special care to those in critical state by preparing them to have a peaceful death.

The Centre organized a workshop on end of life care, animated by the Ministry of Health, the SNAP on 11 March 2015. All the minders, staff and some of the clients, staff from Caritas, family members of the clients and Hope House

committee members attended the programme.

All the participants were educated on the end of life care and pain management and they were grateful for arranging such enriching programme.

Palm Sunday at Ponta De Ouro, Maputo, Mozambique



Sr. Mary Clara and Sr. Saroj Kindo with the faithful on Palm Sunday, 29 March 2015, at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Ponta De Ouro, Maputo, Mozambique. Fr. Petrus Kullu MSFS, Delegation Superior was the main celebrant.



South Sudan Mission at Tonj Welcomes Rector Major

Don Bosco Mission, Tonj, South Sudan was extremely happy to welcome the Rector Major Don Angel Fernández Artime, on 18 February, 2015. A grand reception was arranged to welcome him from Tonj. The Fathers and Sisters, together with the youth, school children and a band group received him from the airstrip in Tonj, and solemnly took him in procession to the mission centre with band and songs.



After the grand reception ceremony, the Rector Major, together with Fr. Giovanni, the Provincial, Fr. Ferrington, the Delegation Superior and a few others made a friendly visit to the MSMHC's convent.

Thereafter, the Rector Major blessed the newly built Hospital and proceeded for the Solemn Mass and programme.

On the same evening, the Rector Major and a few others accompanied by Sr. Dona Lyngdoh and Sr. Monica Adaphro went to Laicok Leper's Colony. There, Fr. John Peter, the Rector and Parish Priest of the mission briefed the Rector Major about the life of the Lepers

and the services being rendered to them. He interacted with the inmates and addressed them, encouraging them to be hopeful. He also prayed for them and their families and imparted God's blessings.

Late in the evening was the get together of all the religious communities -SDB, FMA, SMK and MSMHC. During this, a prayer service was organized by Bro. Tenzing Shadap SDB, Sr. Jane FMA and Sr. Dona MSMHC. In a brief address, the Rector Major appreciated the members of the mission at Tonj for all the good work being done in the place. This was followed by dinner, which offered everyone a pleasant time to be together.



~ 2015 Year of Consecrated Life ~

WAKE UP THE WORLD!



*"Look to the past with gratitude...
Live the present with passion...
Embrace the future with hope."
— Pope Francis*



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