



HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



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September - December 2018



To be Empowered by The Word

Themed with, “Go Proclaim the Good news,” the Bible Camp was held at Bethel from 21 – 24 October for the office bearers of the Young Apostles of Christ (YAC) and Women Apostles for Catechesis (WAC). It was organized by Missionary Animation Centre (MAC) with the aim of instilling love for the Word of God in the young and women leaders who are called to be apostles and missionaries in collaboration with

the MSMHC.

Speaking at the inaugural function held on 21 October, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and the Chief Guest of the function highlighted the importance of faith in God citing the example of the three young men in the blazing furnace from the book of Daniel. She also inspired the gathering to become the message of hope in the present scenario wherein many people

succumbed to despair due to struggles in life. Sr. Mary Concepta Dkhar, the Provincial Superior of Shillong Province addressed the participants saying, “As YAC and WAC, you are the hope who will go and light your unit, parish and villages. You are called to bring light where there is darkness.” She also emphasized on the need to be empowered by the Word of God to be the light of Christ to others.

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FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Community, a God enlightened space

Among the many signs of holiness in today's world presented by Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, holiness in community has a particular significance. We see how tendencies towards isolation and individualism are rampant in families and even religious communities.

The Holy Father seems to warn us against this when he calls our attention to the growing need to build communities as *locus* for holiness. Genuine community life promotes holiness and when we deviate ourselves from community living there are added dangers. "When we live apart from others, it is very difficult to fight against concupiscence, the snares and temptations of the devil and the selfishness of the world. Bombarded as we are by so many enticements, we can grow isolated, lose our sense of reality and inner clarity and easily succumb" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 140).

Living in communities is an experience of being supported and sustained in our personal struggles against the many sinful tendencies hidden in us. The digital world in which we live today tends to steal us of our ability to relish the joy of being in the presence of 'real persons' who share the same roof with us. At times we hear of how even religious who have professed to live in communities tend to ignore the commitment to community life and enter into pseudo-communication with illusory persons which in the long run endanger their very commitment. In our religious context we ought to use means of social communication very prudently to enhance ourselves for an effective mission. But we see the abuse taking place because of our tendency to absolutize them to the extent that they become detrimental

to a joyful community living. Our individualistic attitude and tendency to alienate ourselves from the common life of a community steal us of the joy of family spirit and kill the spirit of communion in communities.

Quoting the words of St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, Pope Francis reminds us that "each community is called to create a God enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the Lord." (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 142). To make a community a 'God enlightened space' every member must strive to recognise and revere the presence of the Lord in self and in other members of the community. When we fail to have this basic attitude of openness and respect, community may be reduced to the level of a lodge, hostel or even a hotel where there is no family spirit. As a result members remain estranged without being bonded among themselves; become victims of concupiscence and easily fall into the snares of the devil and become totally incapable of pursuing the ideals of holiness in communities.

It's important therefore to pay attention to the small details of community life that Pope Francis has recommended in *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 144. He presents how Jesus took care of the little details of noticing the widow who put the two small coins into the temple treasury, the little details of having the spare oil for the lamps in case the bridegroom delays, the little details that one sheep was missing, the little details of preparing fire to make the breakfast ready for his disciples etc. Mary is also presented as one who is attentive to the little details of life; she noticed the little detail that wine was running short at the wedding feast at Cana.



Our communities become God enlightened space and locus of holiness only when we nurture in it, the little details of love, care and concern specially when we learn to be sensitive to the least, the lost and the most vulnerable in the community. Amidst the growing apostolic demands and the daily pressures of life we can easily side-line these little details of love and care which may appear to be insignificant but in fact they matter a great deal in building communities.

As we come to the end of the year 2018, let's be grateful to God for our communities as 'God enlightened spaces' where we live our call to holiness in the company of our fellow sisters. While we humbly acknowledge our failures in contributing our share in making our communities a God enlightened space, let's earnestly resolve to commit ourselves to the little details of love and care in our communities, thus creating an open and evangelizing environment in them.

May we continue to discover more and more the beauty and richness of our community living as we step into the New Year.

May the Lord sustain us in His grace so that no one may fall victim to the three fold enemies of holiness: the world, the devil and the flesh.

Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior General

Sr. Katherine Joseph, General Councillor for Education was present at the inaugural function and about 75 YAC and WAC members from Tezpur, Guwahati and Shillong Province accompanied by the Provincial Councillors for Evangelization of the respective provinces participated in it.

Focusing on the role of youth and women in evangelization, Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, the General Councilor for Evangelization based her talk on the Word of God and the powerful presences of women in the Bible. In her session entitled, 'Spirituality of Leaders,' Sr. Martina Thabah, Provincial Councilor for Evangelization of Shillong Province systematically pinpointed the values,

attitudes and lifestyle of the leaders based on the Word of God and the iconic figures of great prophets and leaders in the Bible. She stressed on the need to be spirit filled persons in order to be charismatic leaders in the Church. Mr. Albert Nongrum, the Senior member of YAC, Shillong powerfully established the importance of Bible study by quoting the Bible verses and sharing his own life's experiences on the power of the Word of God in life and mission as he said, "God's Word is not for information but for transformation."

A pilgrimage to Founder's tomb was a unique moment of grace as prayers and the Holy Mass were offered in honour of Founder.

Speaking on the program, Theresa Makri, YAC Umroi said, "It's a God experience for me and I am inspired to read the Bible every day and find the answers to all my problems in the Word of God." Sofia Riahtam, WAC Mawlong said that the days' sessions enabled her to discover herself and the urgency of the mission. She said, "I now realized that the mission is urgent and I need to live the Word of God to be the light of Christ to others."

In addition to insightful and motivating sessions, the days were marked with prayers and various activities such as Gospel sing out, Bible skit, extempore on Bible passage and worship dance. The program ended with the note of thanks and prayers.

Festive Oratory - Hatigaon

The annual festive oratory at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon on 8 September was organized by the Missionary Animation Centre (MAC) in collaboration with the community of Hatigaon and the Junior Sisters with the promotion of human formation and evangelization as its central theme and aim.

The inaugural function commenced at 9.00 a.m with Bible reading, prayer dance and lighting of the lamp. Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, the General Councillor for Evangelization and Director of MAC briefly emphasized on the goal of festive oratory as to form good Christians and honest citizens as intended by Don Bosco. In her message to children, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and the



Chief Guest of the event spoke on humility and simplicity saying that the humble and little ones are close to the heart of God and that God is glorified when a person lives a life of love

and charity. The General Councillors and all the Community Sisters were present for the programme.

About 120 children from the oratories which are taken care by the Junior Sisters in their Sunday apostolate participated in the festive oratory and were accompanied by some parents and local church leaders.

It was an eventful day with various competitions on Gospel themes, games and sports. The program served as an educational and evangelizing experience for children through various activities such as sport, leisure, healthy and safe entertainment.





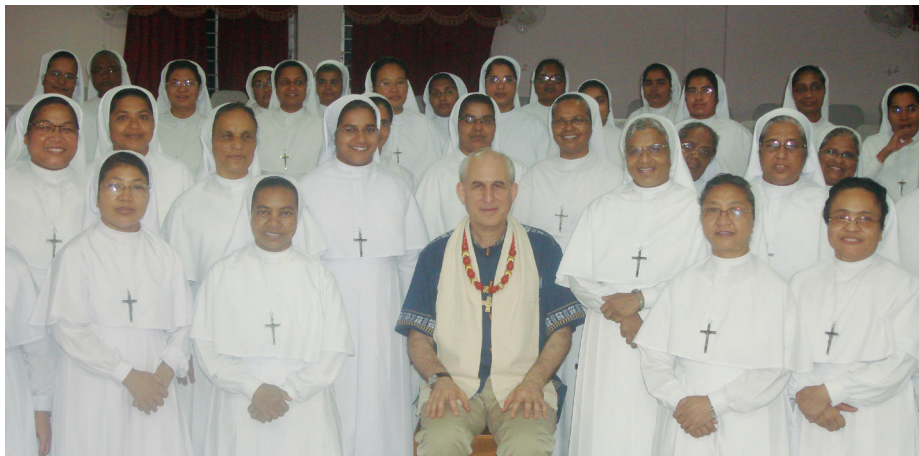
Inter Provincial Council Meet

The Inter Provincial Council Meet held at Bethel from 15 – 20 September had the theme of radical renewal as its core objective with the study, reflection and interiorization of GC 9 and its policies. Began with the Holy Mass, the meeting was officially inaugurated in a short and prayerful ceremony.

An introductory message by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General aligned thoughts and attitude to the main goal of the meeting.

A brief moment of interaction with Fr. Guillermo Basanes SDB, General Councillor for Mission became a source of inspiration as he challenged the sisters with his missionary zeal and reiteration of the missionary nature of the MSMHC.

The Superior General in her key note address entitled, 'Journeying with



a vision for radical renewal' focused on the missionary vision of Founder, and a life centered on Christ. Stressing on the responsibility of leaders in leading the community and the province, she urged everyone to start afresh from Christ and Founder. A paper presentation on the topic, "Spiritual leadership and discernment" by Fr. Julian Fernandes evoked deep reflections on spiritual leadership while the animation by Fr. Christu Das based on the theme,

"Animation on leadership for Mission on today's context" brought to light the present context of mission in India and the need to live in the society without changing the vision and mission of the Congregation.

The days were scheduled systematically with input sessions, report presentations, discussions and reflections on GC 9 and its policies, issues connected to leadership, mission and challenges with a way forward.

Animation and Bible Camp Kolkatta

A three day animation program for the touring sisters of Kolkatta Province was organized at Itchapur from 2 – 4 October. The entire program aimed at updating the sisters for

effective evangelization in the present consumerist society.

Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, the General Councilor for Evangelization and Sr. Celina Surin from the Missionary Animation Centre (MAC) animated and guided the sisters on various topics related to missionary evangelization, family visits and counselling. The underlying theme running through the varied sessions was Jesus' way of preaching the Good news.

Sr. Molly James, the Provincial Superior of Kolkatta Province enlightened the group on effective means of evangelization that are practical in daily interactions with the people. The program set a stage for awareness and growth through sharing, group discussions and deliberations and it had the active participation of about 20 touring sisters.

The animation program was followed by Bible Camp for WAC at Bandel from 5 - 8 October. There were 33 WAC members participating in it. A welcome speech by Sr. Rita Kullu, Provincial Councillor for Evangelization, Kolkatta Province was followed by a solemn Bible enthronement which set the right ambience for the program.

The participants were drawn to in depth reflections through Bible readings, insightful sessions and sharing. Bible skits and value based cultural items were the rich source of motivation for moral and spiritual upliftment.



Batch Meet: an On Going Formation

Every pleasant moment spent together helped ruminate the awe inspiring yesteryears with hope streaming in for the journey ahead. Indeed, this was the experience of the sisters who gathered at Bethel for Batch Meet (1985 - 1987) from 3 -14 September. The program had a befitting start with the prayerful inauguration and lighting of the lamp. Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General in her introductory talk stated the Meet as an important part of on-going formation which is a continuous process and most essential for spiritual nourishment, religious and community life.

With reference to the encyclical letter of Pope Francis, *Gaudium et Spes*, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General helped set focus on being joyful missionaries. Sr. Rose

Paite, the General Councilor for Social Apostolate took session on the topic, 'Integrated Personality' which dealt with the power of positive thinking. Sr. Christine guided the group on how to look at the past with gratitude through an exercise of making a life-line by picking up lessons from the past experiences.

The days were richly blessed with ample time for group and individual sharing of experiences, prayer and reflection. The visit to Founder's tomb was the source of reliving the spirit and charism of Founder. It was a time of spiritual rejuvenation, a come away to the desert for a prayer in the stillness of the picturesque Bethel.



Annual Analysis Meet

Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) under the Social Apostolate wing of the Congregation had its annual analysis meet of the staff on 18 – 20 December at Bethel to review and analyze the year long developmental activities undertaken on the project.

In her introductory speech, Sr. Rose Paite, General Councilor for Social Apostolate and Director of CDI briefly explained the aim of the program and applauded the past achievements and endeavours especially with regards to women empowerment. In her message, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and Chief Guest of the inaugural function highlighted the importance of team work, sacrifice and commitment. She expressed hope that CDI continues to spread its wings of charitable services



to those at the periphery.

The various apt topics dealt with by the resource persons enriched the program with freshness and new knowledge. The days were packed with input sessions, presentation of annual reports by city coordinators, group discussions and feedback wherein new learnings helped set the way forward to

reach the unreached. Interesting games, sports, competitions and a day out for leisure added spice and flavour to the event.

About 60 staff from various centers in the Northeast under CDI actively participated in the program and were ever more enthused to serving the disadvantaged sections of the society.



Editorial

Against the Flow...

Roll on...

Hard times in personal life as well as in the life of the institution can lead to a fresh look at the way things are and will be. It can be a time of creativity, new vision and determination to roll on with the punches.

Slapped with various hurdles, persecutions, scandals and dwindling of faith, the church today is in constant battle against the new trend of this millennial world which is spinning out values that strike at the core of its values and beliefs.

And...

Being at the heart of the Church, religious life has always been considered an ideal way of life and consecrated men and women have been classed apart as persons of God, sought after for prayer, guidance and wisdom. A doubt can arise as to whether it still holds its relevance and status in the mind of the people when all seem not so well with regards to living a radical witness of life and the Gospel values.

Dangers on the way. Keep guard.

Christians and religious are in constant battle against all that is not of Christ and His values. Pope Francis in *Gaudete et exsultate* warns the faithful of not only against the 'world and a worldly mentality' and human weaknesses, but against 'the prince of evil'. There is a need to take a strategic move and decisions every day to rise victorious in this journey as the Bible says, "Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." (1 Pet 5 :8)

It calls for staying alert, keeping guard against worldly values, making the right choice, constant tuning of the heart to the spirit and His promptings.

Holiness – the goal of life.

Change is often the popular slogan specially at the time of elections and when there is discontentment of any sort. The world calls for a change of ideas, change of structure to pave way for an ideal life. In religious circle, change is for a life of holiness, a change of heart.

As the world celebrates the birth of the Holy Child on Christmas and echoes the song, 'O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining' let's wish for a holy life that shines bright amidst the dark values of this world and find simple joys in simple living.

Sr. Irene Zosiarni

TITBITS

SALESIAN POSTULATOR GENERAL VISITS



Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, the Salesian Postulator General visited Hatigaon on 23 September and addressed the Juniors with the topic, "Sanctity in Salesian Family". He insisted on intensifying prayers for the beatification of Founder Bishop Ferrando.

SWAZI WELCOMES ARCHBISHOP THOMAS



Archbishop Thomas Menampampil visited the MSMHC in Swaziland on 7 November. His visit gave impetus to the spirit and missionary enthusiasm to the sisters and his inspiring message of hope and encouragement to brave all odds in the mission field served as a source of strength.

CHRISTMAS JOY - HAWAII



Celebrating Pre - Christmas with Religious Education children at St. Elizabeth's Church on 22 December had evoked a true spirit of Christmas as children participated with enthusiasm and joy.

Remembering Mother Packumala on her First Death Anniversary

A year had passed since Mother Packumala breathed her last on 27 November 2017. On the eve of her first death anniversary on 26 November, the MSMHC sisters in and around Guwahati gathered at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon with a sense of renewed love, gratitude and fond memories of her.

The Holy Eucharist was offered in her name and Fr. Varghese, the Vicar General of Guwahati Archdiocese in his homily recalled his personal experience of Mother Packu and



the genuine love she had for the congregation and her wide influences in the lives of many.

After the mass a floral tribute was paid and Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General released a book entitled, 'In Attribute to Mother Packumala' containing a compilation

of experiences and impressions on Mother Packu shared by different persons. While introducing the book, she drew inspiration from her life of discipline, integrity and charisma, recalling the story of her struggle, sacrifice and commitment for the growth of the congregation.

MSMHC Educators' Meet on Child - friendly Environment

Keeping in mind the crucial role of education in shaping the lives of children and their future, the MSMHC Educators' meet held from

29 November to 1 December at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon focused on the wellbeing and safety of children in all the MSMHC Schools. The meeting convened for the heads of the MSMHC Schools had the participation of about 30 Principals and headmistresses of the Provinces of Shillong, Tezpur and Guwahati. Similar program was conducted on 23 – 25 November at Tinsukia which was attended by the principals and headmistresses of the Province of Tinsukia.

School being a platform where



children are being groomed for better living and their future depends on their today's experience, Sr. Katherine Joseph, General Councillor for Education extensively dealt with Child protection policy and exhorted the sisters for its implementation in their respective schools.

Group discussions and sharing on matters affecting educational endeavours as well as the challenges and scope of the apostolate of education enhanced and enthused the mind to strive on in achieving the aims and visions of Founder.





Final Profession

In a solemn Eucharistic celebration on 8 December at Hatigaon, and the feast of the Immaculate Conception, 26 sisters pledged their final vows to the Lord after two months of intense prayer, discernment and preparation. Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati Diocese in his homily affirmed Christ as the centre of consecrated life, the source of meaning and the reason of sacrifice and commitment.

The hall was packed with parents,



well-wishers, sisters and other religious dignitaries who came to witness the event and bless the finally professed

sisters. It was indeed an exalting moment for the congregation as the event symbolized growth and grace.

Prior to the day of the final commitment was days of immediate and intense preparation from 1 October to 6 November at Bethel under the guidance of Sr. Asha Mao, the General Councillor for Formation. Besides various enhancing sessions on topics related to personal and religious life given by professional resource persons, time spent in prayer, reflections and spiritual retreats enwrapped the soul of the program.



Christmas with the less privileged children

Christmas celebration at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon wore a unique look and festivity as

the community shared the joy of Christmas with around 400 less privileged children mostly Domestic Workers' children from different nearby localities and suburban areas. Staff from the Ray of Hope, the FDWA and the NDWM under the aegis of CDI were present along with children under their care.

The day truly marked the purpose of Christmas as the community

radiated the peace, joy and love of Christ to children. The Junior sisters enacted the nativity scene, sang Christmas carols while children performed some dances and songs.

In her Christmas message, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General spoke of God's love and urged the children to love God in return and live a good and honest life.



Orientation for the Newly professed

The 36 newly professed sisters who made their first vow at Nava Jyoti Bhavan, Tinsukia on 8 December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception arrived at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon on 9 December and were accorded a warm welcome

and felicitation by the community. A two day orientation programme was held on 10 - 11 December. The program with enriching sessions with various topics on religious and community life, various apostolates of the congregation, challenges in the missions, self - awareness and commitment proved to be a motivating factor as they prepared themselves to delve into the missions.



NE Level Workshop on vulnerability of Domestic Workers

In a three days Northeast Level Workshop held at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli from 28 – 30 October, thoughts were put together on issues of domestic workers with the theme, “Vulnerability of Domestic Workers: Potential to Human Trafficking.” The program was jointly organized by Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI) and NEDAN Foundation. Sr. Rose Paite, General Councillor for Social Apostolate facilitated the program along with the staff of CDI.

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General, Mr. Surendra Kumar, the IGP and Government officials from Labour Department were present to address the gathering while other representatives of the North East Non-Governmental organizations from various Northeastern States contributed their expertise and experiences.

Sports event on developing team spirit

Little Flower School, Hatigaon organized its annual sports week in the school ground on 18 -22 December. The event aimed at inculcating the spirit of sportsmanship which is essential for developing team spirit, cooperation, discipline, honesty and determination in the budding children.

The opening ceremony held was graced by Ravi Sarma, a popular Assamese actor as the chief guest who addressed the students with words of encouragement and motivation. Notable highlights of the week were various kinds of athletic events with exciting victories as well as misses. It was a fun filled event with lively performances filled with vigour and enthusiasm. For ardent lovers of sports no other event can be exciting as this.

The event concluded on 22 December with the closing ceremony



in which Shri Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, IGP Guwahati was the chief guest. Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General, the General Councillors and other dignitaries were also present. Students showcased their talents through various skillful performances

and cultural dances which exhibited the beauty of diverse ethnicity of the Northeast.

At the heart of the concluding event was Pre Christmas celebration which sent out the message of peace, joy and the charm of the new born babe of Bethlehem.





NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Pancalieri Community Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The wheel of time spun out the twenty fifth year of service dedicated to the sick and aged for the community of Pancalieri, a year of grace and gratitude. To mark the silver year of its existence, a day of gratitude was observed on 13 October.

The entire program of the day was organised meaningfully by Mr. Paletto Piero, the administrator and his collaborators. The Holy Eucharist was officiated by Fr. Paolo Ripa who in his homily congratulated the sisters for



their fidelity, spirit of endurance and courage to commit themselves to the service of the most helpless people. This was followed by felicitation programme in which the sisters were honoured for their commitment and remarkable contribution to the institute and the welfare of the inmates. The day was unique and memorable with

entertainment program, songs and music performance by a professional. The tone of celebration and the ambience of the day could well be defined with the sayings of the famous poet Tagore, "I slept and dreamt that life was nothing but Joy, I woke and found that life was nothing but Service, I served and realized that Service is Joy."

Delegation Day Celebrated

The celebration of delegation day on 4 October at Crocetta, Turin was marked with gratitude and historical event of the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Carmela Lakra and Silver Jubilee of Sr. Rani Annem and Sr. Augustina Narzary. It was a day to recall a story richly textured with daring faith, generous love and unbounded hope.

Prior to the Holy Mass was a conference in which Sr. Marta Do

Rosario, the Delegate Superior addressed the sisters with inspirational talk based on the life of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the Patroness of Delegation focusing on her vocation of love and on Founder.

A thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Don Marek Chrzan, Rector of the International Institute of Don Bosco, Turin followed by cutting of the Jubilee cake and fellowship meal. The day was remarkable and joyous as it brought the sisters from different communities together in celebration and prayer.



Lesotho Echoes



The MSMHC at Lesotho had the gracious and encouraging presence of Archbishop Thomas Menampampil on 2 November. He blessed and laid the foundation stone of the sustainable project for Ferrando Resource Centre Special School.



On 24 November, Ferrando Pre-School Ha Chonapase Lesotho held Graduation Day which was attended by the chief of the village, parents and wellwishers.

Follow up Program Mozambique

The closing of catechetical year of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Ponta Do Ouro was marked meaningfully with a follow up and short animation program for children on 24 November. The MSMHC along with the catechists organised revision of the catechetical instructions and lessons



the children had learnt throughout the year. Children were also guided with biblical stories, bible verses, prayers and exhortations in view of strengthening their faith.

Animation Program with the

theme, "How to be a good catechist" was also held to update catechists in matters related to the teachings of the Church. It was attended by the sisters and catechists belonging to different sub-centres of the Parish.

Foundation Day at Germany

Seizing the opportune time to make the presence of the MSMHC felt to the people around, the Foundation Day of the Congregation was celebrated on 24 October at St. Josef Klost, Germany. A solemn Eucharistic celebration was



offered in thanksgiving to God for the manifestation of His love through Bishop Stephen Ferrando and the Congregation of the MSMHC which he founded to continue the mission of service. Sr. Marta Do Rosario, the Delegate Superior from Italy was present for the occasion and it was attended by a close circle of collaborators and a few sisters from other religious congregation.

In his homily, Deacon Wolfgang appreciatively spoke on Founder and the Congregation. An audio visual on the 'Legacy of God's Love' rendered a glimpse of the Congregation and its evangelizing mission and activities.

YAC Convention Swaziland

In a move to revitalise the faith and instil the missionary enthusiasm in the young, the YAC Convention was held at Likhaya La Maria from 7 to 9 September with a theme, 'To Jesus through Mary.'

As many as 23 YAC members attended the program. The sisters were assisted by Fr. Joseph Nguyen SDB, YAC Spiritual Director and Patricia Johnston and Bongile Nxumalo, YAC Patrons throughout the program. As the YAC Candle was lighted at the inaugural ceremony, Sr. Elsa Joseph gave a message to the young on the importance of becoming a light to

others by living a life of faith based on the YAC Motto: 'To Love and Serve.' Fr. Mbongiseni Sbabangu SDB, the Parish Priest hoisted the YAC Flag and in his session he stressed on the Holy Eucharist and Confession. Speaking on the virtues of Mother Mary, Gugu Zwane inspired the young to imitate

Mother Mary and stay close to Jesus. Mr. William Kelly, the National Director of Caritas- Swaziland talked on Social Teachings of the Catholic Church while Bongile Nxumalo explained to the youth about the Mysteries of the Rosary. The days were enlivened with games, sing songs and various competitions.





Christmas at 'Focus village'

As Christmas season set in with hearts and minds fixed on the birth of Jesus, the sisters of Swaziland visited their 'focus village', Emseleni on 8 December to prepare the people for a meaningful celebration of Christmas. Being the feast of Mary Immaculate Conception, Sr. Elsa Joseph began her talk on Mother Mary and spoke on the theme of love based on Christmas.

While exhorting the people to welcome Jesus in their lives, she emphasised on togetherness and a life of unity as a family and the church.

Added to this, Sr. Susan Soren too reminded the people of God's saving

love while Sr. Clara Topno helped the children to perform some cultural items and songs. The day's program brought forth Christmas joy and togetherness.



Gratitude on Foundation Day, Hawaii



To mark the 76th Foundation Day of the Congregation, a thanksgiving mass was celebrated at St. Stephen Church Pali by Fr Mario Raquepo, the Pastor of St. Stephen and Fr Arnold Ortiz, the Pastor of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

It was also a unique moment of gratitude and a time to recall God's unfathomable love and guidance as the presence of the MSMHC struck its 10th year of existence in the soil of Hawaii Island. Fr. Mario in his homily appreciated and thanked the sisters for their valuable service and commitment in their ministries which is the manifestation of their love for God and for drawing many people back to the Church through their missionary endeavours.

Summer Fest reach out

Reaching out people at the periphery of the society with the heart of the good Samaritan has been a distinct characteristic of the faithful of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Hawaii. This year too, under the leadership of Sr. Ruth Zonunthari, a team of the Good Samaritan Volunteers organized Summer Festival on 20 October for the homeless and the low income families who reside in and around Aiea District, Hawaii. They also made

sure that no one had been left out for the program. The day was unique and memorable as various valuable program, interesting games, fun items and competitions with prizes were conducted.

The Summer Party focuses on making the day special by restoring humanitarian values, faith in humanity by little acts of kindness.

