



# HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



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## Ambassadors for Christ

All roads led to Bethel on 15 March for women apostles for catechesis as the second national WAC Convention kick started with the solemn inaugural function at 5.30 p.m. Keeping in mind the urgency of the mission and the influential role played by women in various walks of life, the convention with the theme, "We are ambassadors for Christ." (2 Cor. 5:20) was organized by Missionary Animation Centre (MAC) in collaboration with the Provincial Councilors for Evangelization. It also aimed at lighting the fire of missionary enthusiasm in the participants so that they in turn become ambassadors for Christ in their families, churches, work place and society. There were about 105 women participants from various Provinces of the Congregation

accompanied by the sisters.

In her address at the inaugural function, Sr. Mary Concepta Dkhar, the Provincial Superior of Shillong Province and the Chief Guest of the function highlighted the missionary traits of St. Paul and Founder Bishop Stephen Ferrando who were true apostles of Christ. She also inspired and enthused the gathering to become true ambassadors for Christ by living the Gospel values. Speaking on the theme of evangelization, Sr. Martina Thabah, Provincial Councilor for Evangelization Shillong Province focused on the need to go beyond the comfort zone and said that the main work of evangelization takes place under the action of the Holy Spirit. The aspirants of Grace Villa helped set the tone of the programme with their graceful and devotional steps.

Speaking on the Church's mission of evangelization, Fr. Jose Varickasseril sdb, the main resource person laid emphasis on the role of women in the Church as missionaries. He dealt extensively on the methodology of Jesus in calling, choosing and sending his disciples through the study of the Gospel of St. Mark. His motivational and inspiring talk based on Jesus' way had set a standard and clear vision of being ambassadors for Christ. He concluded his day's session with words of encouragement to never miss the chance of proclaiming the Word of God.

The days' sessions were packed with important topics such as: Jesus' Style of Leadership, Leadership of Mary, Small Christian Community, Sacraments, Church History,

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## FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

### We are Ambassadors for Christ

We are living in a world that looks for credibility and credentials against duplicity and autocracy. As consecrated persons, we are disciples and apostles of Jesus our Master. Hence we are expected to follow his footsteps in all things. St. Paul reiterates the demands of our calling by using another expression “Ambassadors for Christ.” In general term, an ambassador is a respected official acting as a representative of a nation. Sent to a foreign land, the ambassador’s role is to reflect the official position of the sovereign body that gave him authority. In our case as ambassadors for Christ, it is Christ who gives us authority and we are expected to represent Him in this world. He was constantly aware of the source of His authority and was always in touch with the One who invested Him with all authority in heaven and on earth: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Mt 28: 18-20). We know that the authority of Christ was radically different from the worldly understanding of authority.

Therefore, our authority as ambassadors of Christ ought to be different from the world’s concept of authority. As his followers, every MSMHC is an ambassador for Christ and as such her mission is precisely to represent Him in the best possible way in the world. We can say an ambassador is ‘the face’ of his country in the foreign land, therefore those chosen to this responsible and noble post are to be capable of genuinely representing the country.

If being ambassador of an earthly kingdom/country is so important and so noble, nobler indeed is our call to be ambassadors for Christ and His kingdom! We ought to be proud of our Christian and religious vocation as God’s ambassadors for we have been “approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel” (1 Thess 2:4). As we go through this world, we represent another Kingdom (Jn 18:36), and it is our responsibility to reflect the realities of heaven on this earth. We can’t but be constantly aware of the fact that we are in this world, but not of this world (Jn 17:16). We are citizens of heaven and we ought to walk our pilgrim journey with our eyes fixed on heaven where we truly belong. We need to constantly ask ourselves if we consciously live our true identity as ambassadors for Christ or do we tend to forget this identity and take on temporary identities as ‘survival policy’ and get stuck with earthly and transitory concerns?

If we are not careful it can happen that we totally forget our ‘true identity’ and over engage ourselves in the hustle and bustle of our daily life experiences and find ourselves devoid of the joy of being God’s ambassadors. It is of paramount importance that we keep nurturing within ourselves the spirit of true discernment to discern what is essential and what is accidental. We need to focus on the essentials of being ambassadors of Christ so as not to live with a confused identity that will lead to compromise and laxity in living and witnessing the values of the Gospel. Besides as God’s ambassadors we are to be “as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves” (Mat 10:16). Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we must take the message of our King to the “ends



of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Indeed, we have been commissioned by the Lord to proclaim his message of love, healing and reconciliation to all people and to baptise them in the name of the Trinitarian God. In our mission of proclamation and witness as ambassadors for Christ, we ought to communicate the message of the Master and not communicate our own private messages. We are called to teach the same Gospel which we have been taught, which has become our way of life. The Gospel has to become our way of life, only then we will be convinced of the content of our proclamation, if this does not happen our proclamation will be a mere mechanical repetition of the words of the Bible without any effect on the lives of the people. Our mission as ambassador for Christ is rather challenging and there can be a natural tendency to withdraw from facing the challenges. When we tend to shrink back from facing the daily challenges of proclamation and witness, we ought to be comforted by the promise of the Lord to be with us to the end of the ages. “I am with you always to the end of the ages.” So if the Lord is with us who can be against us? May this *conviction turn to be an experience, and may the experience of the accompanying presence of the Lord be the motivating force behind our evangelizing mission!*

**Sr. Philomena Mathew  
Superior General**



Teachings of the Church. Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General Councilor for Evangelization and Director of MAC as well as the Provincial Councilors for Evangelization from different Provinces enthused and motivated the group with their lively sessions and sharing of experiences.

Speaking on the programme, all the participants expressed their joy and satisfaction in having attended it and were motivated to proclaim the

Word of God and become vibrant missionaries in their area of work and family. Deepmala Barla from Tinsukia expressed her joy as she said, "It was an opportune time to meet the Lord in His Word as we meditated on the Word of God and listened to the talk based on the life of Jesus." Anita Minj from Kolkata felt encouraged to share God's Word as she said, "There are many people who do not know about Jesus in my place. I will go and tell

them about Jesus and all that I have learnt here so that they also may know Jesus and love Him."

Besides various motivating sessions, the days' highlights included meditation, prayers and various activities such as Gospel sing out, Bible skit, extempore on Bible passage and worship dance. The programme concluded with a note of enthusiasm and vigour to be ambassadors for Christ.

## Meeting Christ in the Villages

At the very heart of the MSMHC is mission which is an overflow of love and service. Being missionaries without frontier, Junior Sisters from Hatigaon participated in the annual faith exposure programme organized by the Archdiocese of Guwahati from 21 to 27 January at Ambagaon Parish of Tezpur Diocese, Assam. The week long programme organized in view of

giving a missionary thrust to the young and sterling missionaries had about 400 participants from various formation houses of the region.

The programme began with a grand inaugural function which infused missionary enthusiasm and motivation in the participants. Prior to missionary sent off, a moment of prayer in preparation for the day's activities was organized each day and

Archbishops, Bishops, Provincials, and a good number of priests and religious inspired and enthused the participants by sharing their rich missionary experiences and useful tips on works of evangelization. Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General of the MSMHC in her talk said that mission originates from faith and missionaries should go to the periphery and know the smell of the sheep.

The organizing team of the entire programme guided by Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely, the Vicar General comprised of Sr. Maria Ali Thapa, Sr. Barnadeth Kropi, Sr. Regina Mareem and Sr. Justina Kalwing of the MSMHC.

The programme aimed at giving ample opportunities to have firsthand missionary experience in the villages while strengthening the faith of the people through various spiritual exercises.





The participants moved out to different villages in groups. They visited the families and listened to their stories bringing blessings to families through prayers and instructions. The days had a meaningful end with the participants coming together for evaluation, sharing of the experiences, prayers and some cultural show.

It was an enriching programme, unique of its kind as it had a blend of spiritual and missionary experiences.



## MSMHC Hatigaon takes part in Religious Sisters' Day

The entire community of Hatigaon attended the Religious Sister's Day of the Archdiocese of Guwahati and played active role in it.

The first of its kind in the Archdiocese of Guwahati, the Religious Sisters' Day under the patronage of the Archbishop John Moolachera of Guwahati was organized on 2 February at Christ the Bearer of the Good News Cathedral Hall, Rukminigaon. It was in a bid to promote better networking among women religious congregations in the Archdiocese and appreciate the rich contributions made by them in various sectors of the society and the church.

The day began with the inaugural function and a moment of prayer led by Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General of the MSMHC, Sr. Rose

Paite, General Councilor for Social Apostolate and Sr. Asha Dihe, General Councilor for Formation.

At the onset, Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely, the Vicar General welcomed the gathering and briefed with the purpose of the day's programme. A ceremonious lighting of the lamp was done by all the Provincials of different congregations working in the Archdiocese.

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the

Superior General presented a paper on consecrated life with focus on the importance of witness of life and community living. Archbishop John Moolachera thanked and appreciated the sisters for their dedicated service in the Archdiocese of Guwahati and assured them of his support and blessings.

The day was a great success as a large number of sisters from different congregations participated in it.

It was appreciated and valued as the day provided opportunity to interact with each other and enhanced knowledge and enthusiasm.



## A Visit from Missio, Germany

The community of Hatigaon gladly welcomed special guests Msgr. Klaus Kramer, the President of Missio - Aachen, Germany and his team on 17 January. They were accompanied by Archbishop John Moolachera of Guwahati, Bishop Thomas Menamparapil, Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo of Tezpur,



## Discernment Course

The second phase of discernment course held at Bethel from 10 to 21 February was attended by fourteen sisters from different provinces. At the onset of the inaugural session Sr. Asha Dihe, General Councilor for Formation introduced the entire programme as an opportunity to strengthen their call to religious life and a time to experience God through prayers and reflections.

In a three days' animation prior to spiritual retreat, the sisters were animated by Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General and Sr. Asha Dihe on various themes related to religious, community and spiritual life. While stating the vocation to religious life as a call to be committed seeker of God, Sr. Philomena emphasized on the quality

Bishop John Thomas of Itanagar and Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely, the Vicar General of Guwahati Archdiocese and some priests. Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General welcomed the group and introduced each one of them to the community. She expressed her appreciation and thanks for their generous and dedicated service for the Church especially for the growth of the mission. The Junior sisters gave their melodious rendition of a welcome song. The MSMHC sisters from nearby communities were present to welcome them.



of community life and genuine personal relationship with God.

Ample time was given for deeper reflection on the Word of God and prayers to build up loving relationship with Jesus during a spiritual retreat

## Provincial Councilors for Evangelization Meet

A two-days' meeting of Provincial Councilors for Evangelization guided by Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General Councilor for Evangelization was held from 3 to 4 February at Hatigaon with focus on new evangelization. The meeting dealt with important matters related to missionary evangelization and discussions were held on how to give wings to the apostolate with new strategy to address the present need of the church and the society. It was an occasion for enhancing knowledge with regard to challenges and future prospects through evaluation, discussion, deep sharing of views and concerns on the apostolate of evangelization as envisaged by GC 9.

guided by Fr. Albert D' Souza SJ. The course enabled the sisters to have a rich experience laden with new insights; discover the beauty of inner silence and solitude; self-worth and the beauty of religious life and their vocation.



# Editorial

*Let Jesus take the wheel*

Living in a highly sensitized world, some of the most common catchwords and attitudes of today would probably be 'It's my life,' 'It's my right,' 'I deserve it.'

This assertion of oneself might have stemmed from the experiences of hard life at some point of time, so there's a feeling of need to shield for self or else the realization of one's own individuality, potentials, freedom and uniqueness or just a downright rejection of another's interference saying, 'leave me alone and mind your own business'. It also tells us the prevailing attitude of individualism, the 'no say' in another's life and the culture of uncontrolled freedom to be what one wants to be or wants to do and have. Therefore comes the dwindling of religious and age old traditional values of love, respect, service that bind families and societies together. Self and freedom becomes the theme.

Whatever be the version of the root, meaning or purpose, it's a kind of the reflection of deep desire of a person to have one's own will, choice and freedom in life without intrusion or discrimination or authority.

In a world with the echoes of 'my right, my choice, my life', it's a witnessing value that many consecrated persons today continue to live a joyful life of total surrender to God's will and choose to obey in humility. Freedom of choice and will is surrendered so as to let God dictate life's journey according to His will and plan. They live unnoticed yet remain contented and serene as they let God take control of their life.

However, with the vast array of works in the mission; in the attempt to keep pace with the race of time to keep the mission thriving and keep Founder's vision alive, consecrated persons if not careful can fall prey to attitudes that downplay structures, rules and regulations that bind the members together. The desire to have one's own space and will in pursuit of achievements in missions can also lead to owning the attitudes of individualism without even being conscious of it that it has crept in. What if, each one tries to hold on to dear own agendas and allow the busy noise of life to overshadow the silent whisper of God? This situation can shake the very foundation of religious life and cause disintegration in community and personal life.

The answer to staying afloat to the attitudes that can smother consecrated life and values is clearly found in the motto of this year, "Leave your will and seek God's will only and you will find great peace."

*Let Jesus take the wheel as the journey's on...*

**Sr. Irene Zosiami**



## TITBITS

### DON BOSCO'S FEAST CELEBRATED



The Feast of Don Bosco, the Patron Saint of the Congregation was celebrated on 31 January at Hatigaon. The Junior Sisters staged a short drama on the life of Don Bosco depicting his love for souls and his total dedication for the poor youth at the periphery.

### HANDS ON SERVICE



The MSMHC sisters at Lesotho rendered their service and expertise at the medical camp organized by Indian Association Lesotho, therefore reaching out to wider sections of people at the margin of the society.

### WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS



The Junior Sisters at Hatigaon enacted the Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday moving every one to enter deep into the passion of the Lord and pray for the salvation of the world in earnestness.

## Enhancing Life through accompaniment

Keeping in mind the crucial role formators play in shaping lives and the attitude of future missionaries, animation programme for Formators of the Congregation was organized at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon from 12 to 16 March. Emphasis was given on enhancing the experience of God's love and understanding the process of formation and its fundamental trait that is love. There were thirteen participants from different Provinces attending the programme.

Dealing extensively on the nature and method of religious formation and its process, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General spoke on, 'Formation today: ministry and mystery.' Terming the work of formation as a divine act and the work of the Holy Spirit, she spoke on the role of formators as communicators of divine beauty. She reiterated the importance of individual care and formation of the heart to freedom through accompaniment.

Posing some introspective questions



for personal evaluation as formators, Sr. Asha Dihe, General Councilor for Formation led the sisters to deeper reflection and realization of self. She stressed the need to acquire inner freedom which liberates the heart and increases the capacity to love and serve.

Fr. Vinoy OP established the crucial role of formation in addressing the brokenness of each individual to help them face the realities of life and become responsible member of the community.

Speaking on the nature of formation, Fr. Philip Thomas MSFS, the Vice Provincial of North East Province highlighted the importance of self-

knowledge, training of intellect and internalization of values which leads to self-transcendence. He encouraged on helping the formees to discover their true selves and help to realize their goal through positive formation of accompaniment.

Dealing with the topic on 'Personality Disorders.' Sr. Jancy Joseph enlightened the formators on various personalities and common behaviours. She gave some practical tips on how to deal with certain pressures in life.

Besides input sessions by various resource persons, group discussions were held on essential aspects of the formation at different stages.

## Spiritual Retreat

A spiritual retreat for the Junior Sisters was held at Hatigaon from 4

to 18 March. Guided by Fr. Julian Fernandez SJ, the retreat served its purpose of spiritual renewal, a healing encounter with the Lord. The days were spent in silent prayer, reflection and a journey back to the past that

helped wonder at the Lord's working in life's situations. It was a time of spiritual harvest and a missionary boost with themes that dealt with the Emmaus experience, reliving the MSMHC charism, Christ's mission and Founder's vision. Sr. Sara Gangmei one of the Junior sisters joyfully acknowledged the retreat as "an intimate walk with the Lord" and further said that a realization dawned on her on "the mysterious plan of God and His unfailing accompaniment" in her life and "the worth of being an MSMHC". Sr. Lily RK too expressed that she "felt anew within" and she experienced "a higher level of relationship with the Lord".





## Focus Village

In a move to bring Christ ‘to the least of these’ and revitalize their faith and offer accompaniment in their faith journey, the community sisters of Hatigaon bundled up their files and daily chores and went on a three days’ missionary tour to Iongkhuli village which is the focus village of the community.

Situated just a few kilometres away from Guwahati city, Iongkhuli, which falls under Byrnihat Parish is a home to about 67 catholic families mostly belonging to Achik tribe. Upon the arrival of the sisters on 29 April morning, the people accorded a warm welcome, gathered in the church for prayers and attended the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Martin R. Marak from Don Bosco Snehalaya. In a short introductory speech, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General briefed the people with the purpose of the visit and appreciated them for keeping their faith alive. While expressing her joy of being with them, she exhorted them to always keep their hearts attuned to God and be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The entire three days’ programme was systematically planned and

## To the Least of These



organized with various missionary activities aimed at enhancing the faith of the people.

The sisters dispersed to different areas two by two for house visits. They met the people in their own homes, listened to them, prayed with them and took note of their story, material and spiritual needs. The second day was set apart for seminar for adults wherein various topics on sacraments, scriptures, prayers and Rosary were dealt with by Sr. Theresa Sangma and Sr. Celina Surin. Children too were divided into groups and were given catechism classes in the Church

during the day and were instructed on health and hygiene. In the evening was the rosary, way of the cross and film show on the life of Jesus.

It was a rich missionary experience as people turned out in large numbers leaving their daily chores and other engagements. They enthusiastically participated in the programme, received the sacrament of reconciliation and attended the Holy Mass with greater devotion.

The three days’ programme came to a close on 31 April evening with a short cultural programme, competitions on Bible skit, Gospel song and action song. The people expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the sisters for such a missionary and noble venture that favoured their village.

*I say to you, in as much as you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.’  
Mt 25:40*



## Local Catechists Training

In view of strengthening and revitalizing the church through empowerment of the local church leaders, intensive orientation and training programme for the local catechists had been organized at various places at different times with the initiative of Missionary Animation Centre (MAC). There were about 20 participants from different villages at Umswai from 1 to 3 March, and 7 to 10 March at Mariamnagar, Tripura. The training programme at Khobong Parish, Tinsukia from 8 to 10 March had 50 participants both men and women from different villages and about 72 at Nongpoh on 28 - 31 March.

Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General



Councilor for Evangelization, Sr. Celina Surin, MAC member were the main resource persons. They were also assisted by the Provincial Councilors for Evangelization in their respective provinces. They were given instructions and guidance on liturgy and some practical tips on how to systematically

lead the prayers and church meetings.

Besides imparting knowledge on matters related to Church, Sacraments and faith, the programme also aimed at creating competent leaders with a vibrant missionary heart who would serve the local church with dedication and strengthen the faith of the members.

## Animation for Superiors upholds Gospel Style of Leadership

Keeping in mind the crucial role of community leaders in upholding the religious discipline and enhancing the life of the mission, an animation programme was held at Bethel on 25 – 30 March for the Community

Animators of the Congregation with the theme, “Leadership for Consecrated life and Mission 2019”. It was organized by Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General and the programme focused on orienting the superiors to exercise their



## 2000 - 2002 Batch Meet, Bethel

A week long batch meet for 2000 – 2002 batches began on 25 April at Bethel, Barapani under the guidance of Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General. At the onset, Sr. Christine Mynsong introduced the programme as a time of deeper reflection on one's

leadership role with a servant leadership attitude with mission as their priority.

Dealing with the topics on effective leadership, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General brought out the common and useful habits for effective leadership and some practical tips for community animation.

Talking extensively on the theme of the animation, Sr. Christine Mynsong, stressed on the Gospel style of leadership in terms of being a shepherd, servant and steward. She reiterated that leadership in consecrated life is for mission.

Fr. Jose SDB dealt with prayer life in the community and mission while Fr. Julian Fernandez SJ emphasized on how to facilitate the sisters in the community and empower them spiritually.

A pilgrimage to Founder's tomb was made on 31 March to pay homage to Founder and seek his blessings.

religious life and of spiritual journey.

In her sessions, she dealt with topics related to the journey of life with focus on one's spiritual journey and God experience. She said that a spiritual journey is a continual search for God and it is important to have a



grateful note to God on the journey.

Talking on different stages of life and development with special reference to midlife transition, Sr. Sherly Joseph placed various challenges encountered at different phases of life and she exhorted the sisters to cling on to Jesus in times of crisis.

A spiritual retreat guided by Fr. Tommy from Bilaspur centred on the theme, "Stay with us Lord." The retreat offered the experience of the Emmaus journey which the disciples had after the resurrection of Jesus. Through meditation and prayers, Fr. Tommy led the sisters to a step by step spiritual journey to taste the Emmaus



experience in which they recognized Jesus and become disciples sharing the Good news to others.

The programme enabled the sisters to have a rich spiritual experience

through prayers, reflections, sharing and insightful sessions.

The days were wrapped up with a pilgrimage to Founder's tomb where the sisters spent time in prayer.

## Initiation Ceremony: a single step to a thousand miles journey



Setting their first foot into the portal of Little Flower Hr. Sec. School to embark upon the journey into a thousand miles in academic realm, the LKG students were given a grand welcome at the initiation ceremony on 17 April. The programme began with invocation of God's shower of blessings upon the little ones through a soulful prayer song and dance.

Speaking on the occasion to the parents of the students, Sr. Philomena Mathew, Superior General and the

Chief Guest of the Ceremony struck on the core values of human life and coexistence. She exhorted them to



teach, lead and guide their children to live the values of love and service which is the gateway to a happy life. Sr. Jane Francis, the Manager of the School illuminated the minds with her inspiring talk that stressed on the importance of character formation and teamwork. She said that a little fire in the heart of each one is the presence of God which has to be fanned into flames to make this world a civilization of love.

Sr. Lincy John, the Principal declared the School motto of the year – Patience, Passion and Perseverance and gave a brief exhortation to the parents dealing with their role for the success and life of the children.

The most awaited and important moment unfolded as Superior General and Sr. Jane Francis initiated the tiny tots to the world of letters.

The day was also remarkable as a group of experienced counselors guided the parents on pressing issues with regards to parenting and child psychology. It was an enriching moment with vibrant interactive sessions.

The ceremony was also spiced up with zestful performances by the LFS students who enthralled the parents and tiny tots. The day ended by entrusting the budding flowerians to the almighty God as they took the first step to a thousand miles journey.

## NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

### Celebrating Final Yes to the Lord

The MSMHC at Aiea, Hawaii organized a thanksgiving Mass at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church on 28 February in celebration of the final profession of Sr. Lucinda Salboro, who pledged her final yes to the Lord on 8 December 2018 at Hatigaon. The faithful joined in thanking God for her courageous response to God's call and it was a moment of great joy as her mother, Mrs. Carmen Salboro, her sister Laureen Salboro and Aunty Vivian Araujo from Hilo were present for the celebration. Beaming with joy she said, "To be called by God in the way and time He did it and to wait patiently for God's timing made



my final religious profession in the congregation of the MSMHC so special. Filled with much gratitude to God and to the congregation, and in total surrender with the realization of my nothingness and the joy of being one with Jesus, I can say that Jesus is my everything. God's divine love and will worked powerfully in my life on His time."

Sr. Lucinda Salboro is the

first MSMHC from Hawaii who generously responded to God's call, leaving the comfort and promises of the world. In her call to live a consecrated life, she keeps pondering on the words of Jesus, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." (John 15:4)

### Women Retreat with focus on New Evangelization

The second Annual Women Retreat was held at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Aiea on 6 April. The retreat

began with the celebration of the Holy Mass by Bishop Larry Silva at 9.00 am which set a prayerful mood for the day. In his homily he encouraged everyone never to lose faith in the Church, but stand firm in times of trials and challenges.

The main speaker of the retreat, Kelly Wahlquist, who is the founder of Women in New Evangelization (WINE) enlightened the women with the important role they play in

bringing Jesus to oneself first and generously to others and emphasized on the importance of listening to the guidance of Jesus.

There was organized prayers and healing sessions, and a prayerful atmosphere was created with devotional songs and music during intervals.

More than two hundred women attended the retreat and experienced spiritual nourishment.



#### MSMHC Motto of 2019

**Leave your will and seek  
God's will only and you  
will find great peace.**

**Not my will but Thine be  
done O Lord!**

*(S. Ferrando, 24.04.1952)*



## A beacon of Hope for the Sick

Hope House observed the World Sick Day on 11 February focusing on bringing joy and health to the inmates and clients. The day was also remarkable as the staff and caregivers were acknowledged and honoured for their noble task of caring the sick and the vulnerable section of the society some of whom were abandoned by their own family members. Fr. Francis, the Chaplin of Hope House encouraged the sick and the staff with the word of God and offered prayers for all of them. The Evangelical Church of God members turned up in large numbers for the programme with their

generous contributions and to show their solidarity. An inspiring session on Health education with special focus on Diabetic mellitus by Jacqueline,



the staff Nurse brought awareness and doubts were cleared with regards to the matter. Hope House continues to care for the downtrodden and fan the flame of hope in the sick, restoring health and happiness.

## MSMHC Sri Lanka welcomes Provincial Superior



After a year the MSMHC embarked on a new missionary venture in the exotic island of Sri Lanka, the community sisters of Ferrando Convent, Pallavarayankattu on 12 March welcomed Sr. Regi Chacko, the Provincial Superior of Bangalore Province who made her maiden canonical visit to the island mission accompanied by some of the sisters. They were accorded a grand and warm welcome by the students of Don Bosco English School. The visit served as a source of strength and encouragement in fulfilling the vision of Founder for the poor and in living the charism of the congregation.

## Tapping skills and Building rapport

In view of developing the talents of the students and building a rapport with parents, Don Bosco English School where the MSMHCs render their service organized the Annual Sports and Games on 2



March, Exhibition and Marketing on 4 April. The two great events organized in a festive mood were attended by dignitaries and the parents. The occasions provided ample opportunities to build up confidence in the young minds and develop the budding talents and creativity of the students