



# HATIGAON TIDINGS

MSMHC GENERALATE - LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, HATIGAON



Vol. 21.1

January - April 2022

## Jubilee of Religious Profession "an occasion to magnify the Lord"



On January 31, the MSMHC had a joint celebration of the Golden and Silver Jubilee of 2020 and 2021 batches of Jubilarians at Little Flower Convent, Hatigaon which was deferred due to the unprecedented onslaught of covid 19 pandemic. A thanksgiving Mass

celebrated by Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati was concelebrated by a few priests wherein the Shepherd cited aptly to the occasion the letter of St. Paul's to the Philippians, "Rejoice always". He further highlighted the many reasons for the Jubilarians to be

thankful for in their life as religious. The day being the feast of Don Bosco, the principal patron of the congregation, the Archbishop honoured Don Bosco in his homily and spoke of him as a model of holiness.

*Cont. P3*





## From the Superior General To the Light through Love

One of the many letters Albert Einstein wrote to his son Lieserl has a golden content which reads: "There is an extremely powerful force that, so far, science has not found a formal explanation to. It is a force that includes and governs all others, and is even behind any phenomenon operating in the universe. This force explains everything and gives meaning to life. LOVE is the most powerful force there is, because it has no limits. If we want our species to survive, if we are to find meaning in life, if we want to save the world and every sentient being that inhabits it, love is the one and only answer."

The charism of our congregation consists of three essential components: *Mission ad gentes*, Catechesis, and Works of Charity. These three elements are summed up in a single phrase: *To the Light through Love* which is the MSMHC motto of the year taken from the letter of Founder Venerable Stephen Ferrando. It means, we reach out to people and bring them to Christ by our love.

In his annual report submitted to the Congregation for the Propagation of Faith in 1952, Bishop Ferrando stated that the Church will reach out to all categories of people through love. It was a period of post independent and post Second World War. The Tribals in Northeast India, who for years settled on the mountain ranges and frontiers were just catching up with the rest of Indians in education and progress through the tireless efforts of the missionaries. Our Founder too worked tirelessly for the people,

with all respect and love for the culture of the people of Northeast India. He wrote: "From our part, we distanced ourselves from any shadow of politics, but always inspired by the love of Christ, we befriend the tribes, in order to give them the most important thing: "Life of the soul." The missionaries opened the arena of growth and progress, established schools and vocational training centres, set up dispensaries and health centres.

New epoch has got new challenges. From the point of education and global connectivity, Northeast India has made a great leap and Catholic population too has grown. But in many parts of India, Christians undergo struggles and endure various kinds of persecution. We have come to a period where we encounter restrictions and oppositions from fanatics. Among the developed nations like Europe too, there is serious crises of faith due to secularisation of religion. Digital media exposes people to the risk of addiction, isolation, gradual loss of contact with concrete reality and the divine. There is a gradual replacement of religious values with the worldly pleasures and allurements, and the consequent scourge of abortion, the spread of HIV, and the plight of street children without home and economic resources.

As daughters of a great missionary bishop, the MSMHC cannot stop proclaiming Christ, nor can remain frozen before the tragedies of the people, especially, in places where people are less than enthusiastic about spiritual life and Gospel values. The basic question



before the MSMHC is 'Creative Fidelity'. That is, how we can creatively live our founding charism in the present context. As Pope Francis rightly stated "Change of times" requires a "change of pastoral mindset." This calls us to lean toward, listen to, and perceive the new thing towards which God draws all of creation. Our prayer in response to the needs of the world right now is to seek peace and harmony in the hearts of all and nations, to heal and restore love to the broken world and that God may be at the centre of life and the universe.

In this perspective, the MSMHC march forward with our charism of proclaiming, teaching and performing works of charity - all under the powerful force of LOVE. Care of HIV patients, differently abled children, the migrants and refugees, the domestic workers and victims of human trafficking, educating the dropouts and young girls from rural areas are some of the commendable initiatives that are taking shape in our congregation. We do not remain in complacency. As Einstein stated, we need to invent a bomb of love which alone can destroy the hate, selfishness and greed that can devastate humanity.

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



## Cont. P1

In her introductory message, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General lauded the day as "an occasion to magnify the Lord" for the courageous commitment of the Jubilarians to Christ and mission and God's fidelity for the past 50 and 25 years. She further inspired saying, "Jubilee is the right time to remember the past with gratitude, to celebrate God's faithfulness and recommit oneself with greater love to walk to the future with hope."

Days spent in animation program and retreat from January 19 - 30 preceded the grand finale of Jubilee celebration. The two batches of Silver Jubilarians had their program at Bethel organized and accompanied by Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General while the Golden Jubilarians were at Hatigaon under the care and guidance of Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General. On 30 January, the community of Hatigaon organized a befitting welcoming ceremony, thanksgiving prayer service and staged a cultural program in felicitation of the Jubilarians. The reminiscence of the past 50 and 25 years of religious life in the congregation unwrapped the story richly textured with faith and ample reasons to rejoice in God's grace and fidelity.



## Discernment Course

A combined discernment course for the junior sisters of four batches of the year 2013 - 2016 was held at Bethel from January 4-15. The course had rich spiritual programs, systematic guidance and counselling, insightful animation on varied topics and spiritual retreat to help them navigate their life as religious and

discern their true mission and purpose in life. Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General and Sr. Asha Dihe Mao, the General Councilor for Formation guided the sisters in their journey inward and Godward.

Delving deeper into the meaning of Discernment, Sr. Philomena

Mathew, the Superior General stated the importance of living the "yes" to the Lord in one's daily life. During a week-long spiritual retreat, the sisters were guided by Fr. Arul SJ and Fr. Vijay D' Souza SJ. Ample time was spent in prayer, reflection on the Word of God and sharing of faith experiences.







## Missionary Tour to Bangalore Province



'T was a great start of the year for the MSMHC evangelization team of Bangalore Province as Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General Councilor for Evangelization and Director of MAC made a missionary trip to Andhra Pradesh and Telengana mission from January 5 - 23. The visit with series of

animation programs for the sisters, WAC and YAC boosted the missionary dynamism to be 'torch bearers of the word of God' as the world enters into a new normal era of post pandemic.

Reaching out to all the communities in Andhra Pradesh and

Telengana mission, Sr. Bridget in her missionary animation programs emphasized on Catholic faith, various apostolic activities of WAC and YAC. Highlighting on the task of proclamation of the Goodnews, she exhorted WAC members 'to be women of prayer and power' and YAC members 'to be strong in faith and fervent apostles amidst worldly pressures'. To the pastoral sisters gathered at Mariapuram, Sr. Bridget underlined the importance of Catechetical instruction on adults. Sr. Shanti Pulipathi, Provincial Councilor for Evangelization accompanied the sister throughout her missionary tour and assisted for the programs. A total of about 200 WAC, 30 YAC and 30 pastoral sisters attended the program at different places. The priests, catechists and local church leaders too attended the animation programs in their respective mission station.



## Annual Budget Statement

At the turn of a new year, as every province of the congregation braced for new ventures, chalking out plans for greater missionary commitments, budget session was held at the General Council meeting from February 16 - 18. As per the tradition, the Provincial Economers of the Provinces presented the Budget and Planning of the Province and the communities for the new financial year for deliberation and approval of the General team. After the budget statement, the Economers had a day long core team meet with Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General and Sr. Ancila Jose, the Economer General.





## Feast of St. Joseph

Feast of St. Joseph on March 19 bears special significance to MSMHC as he is the principal patron of the congregation as well as patron of the Church and thus is celebrated every year with devotion. Speaking on him in his homily, Fr. Santosh Chavaranal MSFS highlighted his virtue of silence, faith and loyalty to his duty. In the evening, the Junior



sisters staged entertainment programs in honour of St. Joseph wherein Sr. Ancila Jose, the Economer General shared the miraculous intervention of St. Joseph in her life. Drawing a faith laden conclusion from the experience,

she exhorted the sisters saying, "Submit yourself to St. Joseph, he will take care of you. As St. Joseph got up from the sleep and took Mary and Joseph, we need to take Mary and Jesus in our lives."

## Canonical Visitation to Tinsukia Province by Superior General and her Team

At a crucial point of time when the world just began picking up the normal rhythm of life once more after the devastating pandemic series of waves, the MSMHC Superior General and her team had a timely canonical visitation to Tinsukia Province which would reinforce fresh zeal and help refocus on the mission in a new normal era. The visitation which commenced on February 21 stretched across the next two months and it was concluded with GC PC meet on April 23

The Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew and her team - Sr. Christine Mynsong, the Assistant General, Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General Councilor for Evangelization, Sr. Katherine Joseph, General Councilor for Education, Sr. Rose Paite, General Councilor for Social Apostolate, reached out to all the communities of the province spread out in parts of

*Cont. P7*







## Editorial

### Loving Neighbour as Thyself

At some point of time in one's life a chaotic thought of 'to be or not to be' might be the question streaming through the mind when faced with existential dilemma.

Just as a mariner stuck in deep ocean with *'Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink'* (Coleridge), some might have experienced people everywhere with no one to help; the pang of loneliness amidst the crowd; poverty amongst the affluent society; hunger amidst tons of food; not a slab to lay head beneath skyscrapers; sadness amidst burst of laughter and then wonder 'Why'. When the heat of troubles soars, pains and sufferings deeply engulf with no one to heed, one's best choice is to gaze at the vast empty space praying for the healing power to descent - *'Oh! lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud! I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!'* (P.B Shelly) The silent sound of desolation and daze of millions afar, next-door neighbours, comrades and beloveds often doesn't sound loud enough to the heedless ears around. It could be you and me being chaotic or heedless! Overwhelmed with the experience of a deserted island within and without! Just then, let's recall a beautiful and classical poem by John Donne:

*No man is an island, Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.*

Our world is a common home where everyone born into it is given a space by God the Creator. No one, no nation is a complete self but a part of the cosmos. Looking at the dwindling trend today - once friendly nations are torn apart by war; friends become foes: children abandon parents vice versa; homeless in the streets cry for food; the wounded and the dying gasp for help and no one seems to really care just like Cain's cold reply to God when asked about his brother Abel, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The only prescription to disconnectedness and indifference to one another is to live Jesus' teaching to 'love your neighbour as you love yourself'. (Mt 22:39) Looking through the eyes of God will help restore the divine nature of human heart to love, to care and to feel for one another without prejudice. Jesus was able to deeply feel the joy, the pain and sufferings of others as His own - 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me'. (Mt 25:31-46) Jesus' teachings are a stark revelation of an ideal attitude of co-responsibility, co-existence and connectedness and a call to selfless love.

*... Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore, never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.* (John Donne)

Can I truly find a piece of myself in another? Walking in the shoes of millions who suffer, let's pray for healing and peace in our world torn by war.

Sr. Irene Zosiarni

## TITBITS

**Junior's Class:** The Juniors at Hatigaon had two days class and enriching interactions with Archbishop Thomas Menampampil on March 29-30 based on mission and evangelization.



**Palm Sunday:** On April 10, the MSMHC at Tonj celebrated Palm Sunday with the people and walked in procession commemorating the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem 'praying and singing'.



**Come and See Programme, Lesotho :** Come and see program was held on March 12 at Ferrando Convent, Lesotho which was attended by five girls from St. Luke's Parish, Maputsoe.







Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Kerala and Maharashtra. Rooting on the theme of synodality of the Synodal Church, the visit aimed at enhancing wholeness in the life of consecration, community and mission by journeying together with a sense of co-responsibility and collaboration.

In a climate of spontaneity and family bond, the community sisters had sharing of multifaceted life



experiences in the community and mission with the visiting General Councilors. The visit was also an

opportune moment of building a stronger family and collaborative bond with various sections of lay and religious MSMHC collaborators as the visiting Councilors had interactive sessions and meeting with them. The visit offered the province a significant experience of spiritual and missionary animation and served as a catapult to launch greater missionary adventures with apostolic courage and co-responsibility.



## Animation on Renewal and Leadership, Tinsukia Province

One of the most decisive and major events during the canonical visitation to Tinsukia Province by the General team was a day's animation program for all the superiors, headmistresses and eonomers of the convents.

It was systematically organized region wise at different point of time for easy movement and better cooperation owing to the vast expanse of the Province geographically. On February 26, the animation was held at Dimapur for Nagaland Region; on April 9 at Tinsukia for Upper Assam and Arunachal Region and at Chingmeirong, Imphal on April 20 for Manipur Region. Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General animated the sisters and was accompanied by Sr. Bridget Diengdoh, General Councilor for Evangelization at

Dimapur and Sr. Katherine Joseph, General Councilor Education at Imphal.

With 'renewal in consecration and mission' as its central theme, the Superior General highlighted the principal traits of genuine leadership and called for vibrancy in mission. Sr. Katherine Joseph helped the sisters to further reflection and introspection on the state of life and mission at Manipur region based on her observation during her visits to the centres. Besides practical suggestions for the growth of mission post canonical visitation, she underlined the importance of tapping rich personal resources in every member for the enhancement and effectiveness of missionary activities.







## Animation on Financial Administration, Bangalore Province



A three day's animation on financial matters for all the superiors and economers of Bangalore Province was organized by Sr. Ancila

Jose, Economer General on April 3-5 at Pushpa Sadan, Provincial House, Bangalore. The program kicked off with an inaugural function on April 3.

Sr. Asha Mao, General Councilor for Formation, Sr. Tessy Joseph, Provincial Superior and Sr. Sharon Packumala, Vice Provincial were present for the ceremony. Sr. Jessy John, Provincial Economer welcomed the gathering and the postulants performed prayer dance which was followed by lighting of the lamp. In her sessions, Sr. Ancila Jose enlightened and guided the sisters on important issues related to finance and administration. She underlined the need to undertake sustainable development and urged the groups to chalk out plans for implementation.



## FDWA Staff Training, CDI



Director of CDI briefly spoke on the significance of the project and urged the staff to carry across the message of love and justice. A total of 19 staff from across the 12 cities of North Eastern States attended the training and made significant and invaluable contributions to the progress of the project through open sharing, discussions and evaluations.

Training for the staff of Ferrando Domestic Worker Alliance (FDWA) was organized on April 8 -11 at Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI), Guwahati. The training primarily aimed at getting into the nitty gritty and status quo of FDWA project in all cities of North East India and chalk out plans for further

enhancement of the project and various activities.

The program kicked off with inaugural function with prayer, lighting of the lamp and official welcome address by Sr. Molly Mathew, the Assistant Director of CDI. Sr. Rose Paite, General Councilor for Social Apostolate and





## Missio's Capacity Building Program



A capacity building program for Missio's staff was endeavoured from May 2 - 3. The staff actively

participated in discussing the ground realities in the project areas related to migration, negative socio-cultural

practices, education and various social ills like trafficking, child marriage, and poverty etc. SWOT analysis was also conducted and the progress of the project was assessed. Through active dialogue and engagement with the resource persons, the staff enhanced their intellectual horizon with respect to their working areas. A session on the project's evaluation mechanism was also undertaken. A total of 34 staff participated. Several dignitaries and resource persons graced and enriched the event.

## Holy Week Celebrations, Hatigaon

Palm Sunday Procession



Maundy Thursday - Passover Meal



Good Friday



Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday



Easter Monday - Community Day Out







## News from Overseas

### MSMHC Arrives in Papua New Guinea



April 23, 2022 spun a remarkable historic moment in the annals of the MSMHC as Sr. Mini Joseph and Sr. Lapynshai Khongwir reached Papua New Guinea at 6:30am (PNG time) as the pioneering missionaries. They were received at the Port Moresby International Airport by Fr. Simal Silva, SDB, Provincial Economist of

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and were warmly welcomed by the Salesian Provincialate community.

The sisters were given a temporary shelter at Emmous Conference Centre, Taurama Road, East Boroko NCD (National Capital District) which is a centre for corporate event, workshop, seminar,

private and group retreat.

The sisters will be working in Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu which is close to the Pacific Ocean and a ten minutes' drive from Emmaus Centre. The centre comes under the Parish of Mary Help of Christians, Sabama, Port Moresby. The sisters will be engaged in pastoral works mainly family visits, catechetical instructions and systematic follow up of different age groups in their faith journey, care for women association and part time teaching at Don Bosco Technical College and school.



### WAC Lenten Programs, Hawaii



In a move to deepen God experiences during Lenten season, members of Women Apostles for Catechesis (WAC), Hawaii Unit undertook a spiritual journey since March 2, Ash Wednesday through the observance of various spiritual exercises such as prayers, popular devotions and reception of

sacraments.

Stepping out of their daily routine of life, they set out for pilgrimages on March 10 and March 17 and visited the churches of Holy Trinity, Star of the Sea, St. Patrick and St. Piux X, St. Jude, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Joseph. They spent time in

interceding for the world and various intentions and offered a prayer of blessings upon every parish they set their feet on.

On March 26, they had organized recollection as an intensification of spiritual exercises before the Holy Week. Sr. Meristella Umdor guided the participants to deeper reflection on the parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9) and challenged them to bear more fruits as women apostles bearing the message of Christ. The women enriched and encouraged each other by sharing their spiritual experiences and reflections. Fervent participation at Friday's Way of the Cross helped them walk alongside Jesus and share in His passion. The newly formed WAC at St. Elizabeth's Parish has now over thirty members charged with missionary enthusiasm to continue the mission of the church.



## MSMHC's First Kindergarten, Mozambique



A remarkable historic moment occurred in the history of the

MSMHC, Mozambique mission with the opening of its first ever Kindergarten "JARDIM INFANTIL DE FERRANDO - MSMHC" with four children on April 1 in a remote place of Matutuine District of Maputo, Mozambique. It was a milestone event that set the foundation for greater missionary undertakings and a dream realized after painstaking efforts of the MSMHC sisters working in this part of the globe.

In keeping with Founder's predilection for girls and children especially in villages and rural areas, this Kindergarten is a day care centre for children of 3 - 5 years old and a preparatory school prior to their formal education at Class - I. Sr. Saroj Kindo, the main in charge of the centre said that it was in response to the present need of the people aimed at the integral growth of children and is hopeful of its future.

## FRCSS New Wing Inaugurated, Lesotho

On January 31, a new wing for Early Identification and Intervention Unit at Ferrando Resource Centre Special School, Lesotho was inaugurated and blessed by Bishop Augustinus T Bane OMI, the Bishop of Leribe. The new site for the convent located at the same campus was also blessed by the Bishop after the inaugural function of the new building. The event was also hailed by the presence of Fr Mothusi Sidney Boatile, Provincial of the Oblate Missionary of Mary Immaculate who did the cutting of the ribbon and officials from the department of Education and Social Development - Dr. Dira Khama and Mrs. Nkhasi.

On February 1, a thanksgiving mass was offered by the Bishop at the new school building. It was attended by the staff and students of FCCSS. The support of well-wishers has been an enhancing factor to make the centre inclusive and provide integrated growth for children with disability.



## Pre - School Graduation, Eswatini

The Scholastic Year came to an end for St. John Bosco Pre- School with the graduation ceremony of Batch 2021 on March 18. A total of 42 students graduated on that day, ready to join primary school. The dignitaries present were Mrs. Sibongile Maseko and Winnie Tsabedze, the Inspectors of Pre-Schools in Manzini Region. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, only one parent per student was invited to attend the graduation ceremony.

Sr. Susan Soren, the Head- teacher of Bosco Pre-school officially welcomed the gathering and hailed the occasion as remarkably important for the growth of little students. Sr. Elsa P. Joseph lighted the candle and gave inspiring message, encouraging the parents to become role models to their kids.

Fr. Mbongiseni Shabangu read the Word of God and gave reflections.

The outgoing students performed entertaining programs and showcased their talents and learnings. The guest speaker, Inspector Tsabedze Winile spoke to the parents on the importance of Pre - School education for wholesome growth.







## World Sick Day Observed, Hope House - Eswatini



Hope House observed World Sick Day on February 11, and coincidentally being the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, from whom millions of devotees pray for healing, Sr. Elsa P. Joseph organized special healing prayer for all the inmates and clients. Fr. Dabulamanzi Nthagasheto and Fr. Odise Lazri SDB prayed for the sick and blessed them

## Visit to Ekufinyeni Focus Village

To help start the year with a note of gratitude to God and assurance of His love, Sr. Mary Clara Topno and Sr. Susan Soren visited the people of Ekufinyeni - Focus village on January 5. Only a single member from each family attended a day's program due to the ongoing pandemic. The sisters spoke on the mission of love based on 1 John 4: 11-18 which speaks of God's love and the obligation to love one another. They urged the people to stay united and contribute for the welfare of the society.

The village headman-Mr.Nsimbi Lukhele thanked the sisters for the constant support and developmental program undertaken with special mention of water project which the sisters sponsored to mark the 20th year of MSMHC missionary presence in Eswatini. New Year Food hampers were distributed to each family after the program.



## Fr. Václav Klement Visits MSMHC, Tonj, South Sudan



On April 1, Fr. Vaclav Klement SDB, the Mission Superior who was on his missionary as well as extraordinary visit to the Salesian mission in South Sudan on behalf of Rector Major visited the MSMHC at Tonj. The sisters welcomed him with Assamese gamcha and welcome songs. With the true Salesian family spirit, time was spent in sharing of missionary experiences, challenges and prospects in the mission. Fr. Klement expressed his appreciation of the MSMHC mission at Tonj and acknowledged the extra miles of sacrifice for the development of the mission and faith of the people. On April 2, Sr. Shanty Anthony and Sr. Kiran Kindo accompanied him to leper's colony. The sisters distributed medicines and food for the lepers.

## MSMHC with Bishop Christian Carlassare

The newly ordained Bishop for the Diocese of Rumbek, Bishop Christian Carlassare visited the MSMHC at Tonj on April 26. The Bishop applauded the sisters for their commendable works in the mission especially for their pastoral activities and charitable services among the lepers and the poor.

