

The BEACON

Province of Our Lady of the Mount, North India

Vatican - St. Peter's Square gets 720-ton sand Nativity scene



Pope Francis, "...the sand nativity scene helps us contemplate the mystery of God, who made man in order to be close to us. Sand, is a poor material that recalls the simplicity, the littleness and frailty with which God shows himself through the birth of Jesus in the precariousness of Bethlehem. The child Jesus, whom we lay in the manger, is holy in poverty, littleness, simplicity and humility. By contemplating the God-child who emanates light in the humility of the manger, we, too, can become witnesses of humility, tenderness and goodness. The Sand Nativity is an encouragement to reflect on the present, "which forces a reflection to purify our harshness" that hints to a greater message: "fragility can be saved."

News from the Province

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Canonical visit to the Fraternities: Sr. Marjorie Caldeira, Provincial Superior, conducted the Canonical visit to the following communities:

05th – 08th October	St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Tanay, Philippines
09th – 12th October	St. Joseph Novitiate, Manila, Philippines
22nd – 24th October	St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Navsari, Gujarat
25th – 27th October	St. Joseph Convent, Bilimora, Gujarat
28th – 30th October	St. Joseph Convent, Valsad, Gujarat
19th – 22nd November	Mount Mary Convent, Bandra
09th – 11th December	St. Philomena Convent, Nashik Road
12th – 14th December	Nirmala Convent, Nashik City

Sr. Leopoldina Miranda, Assistant Provincial, conducted the canonical visit to:

02nd – 06th October	Jyoti Niwas Convent, New Delhi
11th – 15th October	Jeevan Jyoti Convent, Jhabua
19th – 22nd October	Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi
24th – 26th October	Kripa Bhavan Convent, Sandor, Vasai
27th – 30th October	St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, Vasai
22nd – 25th November	Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada
26th – 29th November	Portiuncula Convent, Ashagad
09th – 11th December	St. Patrick Convent, Devlali
12th – 14th December	St. Joseph Postulants House, Devlali

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MEETING

17th October: Twenty ninth Provincial Government Meeting was held at the Provincial House, Bandra.

30th October to 01st November: Thirtieth Provincial Government Meeting was held at the Provincial House, Bandra.

14th to 15th December: Thirty First Provincial Government Meeting was held at Nirmala Convent, Nashik City.

22nd December: Thirty Second Provincial Government Meeting was held at Provincial House, Bandra.

18th November: The Principals of the Institutions in Mumbai and Gujarat came together at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, for a meeting convoked by Sr. Marjorie Caldeira in order to discuss a few matters concerning the educational institutions.

20th December: Sr. Jennifer Greig, General Councillor, arrived from Portugal, in order to participate and accompany in the forthcoming XVIII Provincial Chapter and assist the Sisters in the preparation and the realization of the same.

ANNUAL RETREAT

01st to 8th November: The second batch of forty one Sisters kept their annual retreat at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Lancy Mendonca OCD.

11th to 18th November: The third batch of forty four Sisters kept their annual retreat at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Agnello Barboza, Dominican.

4th Stage of the Process of Revitalization and Reorganization

In all the fraternities of the Province, the fourth stage of the PRR was initiated with a meaningful prayer service and the documents were prayerfully handed over to the Sisters, who accepted it joyfully.



Information

TRANSFERS

08th November: Sr. Sharon Baracho from Clara Niketan Convent, Bhopal to Mount Mary Convent, Bandra.

10th November: Sr. Theresa D'Mello from Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada to St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon.

REST IN PEACE

1st November: Mrs. Clara Fernandes, 69 years, Sister of Sr. Jennifer Monteiro

CELEBRATIONS

Initiation to the Novitiate: 04th

October: It was a day of joy and gladness as Postulants Jurgie Magondaya and Noralyn Magondaya were initiated into the stage of Novitiate. The initiation ceremony was held at St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Tanay in the presence of both the Communities and the Elderly from the Center. Sr. Marjorie Caldeira, the Provincial Superior during the ceremony advised the newly initiated novices to grow in the intimacy with the Lord and spend more time in prayer.



The festive Eucharist was celebrated thereafter by Fr. Paul de Guzman. The Elderly, staff and some of the benefactors joined in the celebration. After the Mass all were served lunch at the Social hall of the Center.

04th October: On the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a prayer service was conducted by Sr. Monica Baptist for the Fasfhic and the league members, followed by the Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Ajit Bandekar. A short cultural programme and a skit were performed by the students. Snacks were served to all.

03rd and 04th

October: The passing away of St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated in a different way with all the League



members from Dongripada and Dulsanpada and the villagers. The people were very happy as it was for the first time that the two different villages came together. On the following day, the feast mass was

celebrated with the villagers of Dongripada. Rev. Fr. Jacob Koli was the main celebrant along with Ashagad and Dahanu Fathers. Snacks were served to all.

03rd October: The Franciscan Priests, Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Bhopal diocese had the Transitus service enacted by postulants and novices. The Sisters of Clara Niwas and Clara Niketan participated in the same. Bro. Sunny Lal, Provincial of Malabar Missionary Brothers gave a talk on the life of St. Francis. This was followed by a cultural programme and a fraternal meal.

03rd October: The Sisters and the Postulants along with the Sisters of St. Patrick convent Devlali participated in the Transitus service by the Franciscan Brothers at the Capuchin Ashram, Nashik city. They witnessed the passing away of St. Francis which was brought alive through the enactment of the Franciscan brothers. Bread was blessed and distributed to all. This was followed by a fellowship meal.

4th October: All the fraternities had a special Eucharistic Celebration to mark the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. The Sisters renewed their vows during the Eucharist. The Institutions also celebrated the feast along with the Staff and students with a prayer service and a get-together.



INITIAL FORMATION

07th October: As part of the Franciscan week and to experience the first mission of our Patron St. Francis, the Postulants and the Sisters visited Mukti Jeevan, a home for Leprosy patients at Vehloli, taken care by the Society of the Helpers of Mary. They spent the day listening, sharing, praying and serving the Lepers. They also entertained them with their sing-song sessions and it was inspiring to witness them sing with so much enthusiasm, faith and zeal. It was indeed an enriching experience.

13th October: Being the month of the Rosary and the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the Sisters and the Postulants along with the Sisters of St. Patrick Convent took the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in procession around the compound praying the rosary reflectively especially praying for peace in the world.

23rd November to 1st December: Mother Clara's Week was organized for the Postulants of St. Joseph Postulants House, Devlali. The Postulants inaugurated the week with a creative prayer service venerating Blessed Maria Clara. The classes were based on the book 'A Sister to the Poor' and the virtues of Mother Clara. During this week they visited the sick and the home bound in the Parish of St. Patrick and prayed the crown of praises with them. On 28th November 2018, the Sisters and the Postulants visited the Orphanage home at Bal Yeshu Convent, Nashik Road. The Postulants enacted the life of Blessed Mother Clara in Hindi in a musical form and gave the message of her love for little children. They also played some games and taught them action songs. They experienced the presence of Christ like Blessed Maria Clara who loved children. During



this week, recreations were based on the life of the Blessed Mother Clara, in the form of quiz, movies and games were conducted creatively by Sr. Juliet Thevar and Sr. Nevita Fernandes for all the postulants as they participated this helped them



to grow more in the knowledge of the Foundress Blessed Mother Clara.

01st December: The Sisters celebrated the death Anniversary of Blessed Mother Maria Clara with love and devotion. The Prayer Service was devoutly conducted by Novice Noralyn Magondaya. In the evening the sisters invited the Children from Purok 1 to celebrate the feast and to make Mother Clara known to the little ones. Sr. Melanie Malazarte explained the life of Blessed Maria Clara. This was followed by some games on the life of Mother Clara. The celebration concluded with the distribution of snacks and a small gift in the name of Mother Clara.

09th December: The Sisters along with the Novices organized a Christmas party for the Catechism children from Kinder to Grade 2 of Purok 1. Sr. Melanie Malazarte narrated the Christmas story and some of the children came forward to sing Christmas carols. The Sisters then conducted few games for them and distributed gifts and delicious snacks with the help of BEC animators of Purok 1.

09th December: During the advent season, the Postulants and the Sisters of St. Joseph Postulants House, Devlali, to grow spiritually observed “A Spiritual Christmas Crib’ in the chapel. Each day something was placed at the crib of Jesus and they practiced the virtues and spiritual acts accordingly for the day.

15th December: The Sisters and the Postulants of St. Joseph Postulants House, Devlali, joined the carol singing in St. Patrick’s Parish, visiting the parishioners and spreading the joy of Christmas.

28th December: The feast of the Holy Innocents Martyrs was celebrated with the Catechism children from the different areas of the parish. The Novices and Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate, Manila, helped in

distributing breakfast to the children after the Mass. Various games were conducted for the Children. The Sisters and Novices performed a Christmas dance for the Children. The party concluded with the distribution of gifts to the children and Catechists.



JUBILEES

26th November: The community of Portiuncula Convent, Ashagad, celebrated with great jubilation, the sixty years of fidelity of Sr. Pauline Pereira with the Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr. Joe Gonsalves SJ. It was followed by a festive lunch along with the Sisters of Prem Daan Convent and the family members of Sr. Pauline.



01st: December: The golden jubilee of Sr. Marie Francis, Sr. Sophia Colaco and Sr. Maria Victoria Gonsalves was celebrated at Mount Mary Basilica with the Eucharist celebrated by Rt. Rev. Percival Fernandez, Auxiliary Emeritus Bishop of Bombay. This was followed by a fraternal get-together and sumptuous fellowship meal for the Sisters and

the family and friends of the Jubilarians at Mount Mary Convent Hall.

YOUTH VOCATIONAL PASTORAL ACTIVITIES



06th to 07th October: A camp was organized for the youth of Dongripada and Ashagad village at the Ashagad prayer hall. The theme chosen was “A Journey with God”. It was well organized by Sr. Lucy Pereira and Sr. Calista Sirvel along with the Sisters of the fraternities of Prem Daan and Portiuncula. The Sisters were the resource persons and through their sessions helped the youth to discover their identity. The Congregation was also made known to the group. There were moments of prayer, reflection, group sharing, game and songs. This camp was a great success as the seventy six youth returned to their mission areas joyfully, inspired and enlightened to be better human beings witnessing Christ by their lives.

06th October: Sr. Blossom Gonsalves along with the youth of St. Patrick Church, Devlali attended the Marian evening organized by the brothers of Divyadaan, the Salesian Institute of Philosophy, Nashik city.



20th - 25th October: Sr. Queenie Anna Fernandes accompanied five youth of the Archdiocese of Bombay to New Delhi to participate in the National Youth Conference organized by the CCBI-National Youth Commission.

Around 500 youth of all the Dioceses of the country were present for the same.

21st October: Being the month of Vocations in the Philippines, Sr. Melanie Malazarte shared her vocation story during the Eucharist at the Parish of the Miraculous Medal. After Mass, the Novices distributed the vocation pamphlets to the youth and parents.



28th October: To depreciate the practice of Halloween (Trick or Treat), the Parish organized the March of Saints. Children and youth from different subdivision participated in it. The Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate, Manila, prepared 18 youth from Purok 1. The activity concluded with a catechesis on All Saints Day followed by the Eucharist.

07th to 10th November:

The tenth Vasai Diocesan Youth Convention was held at the Carmelite Convent High School, Sandor. More than six hundred youth from all over the diocese of Vasai attended it. The theme was 'FAMJAM (Faith and



Morality through Jesus and Mary). Sr. Matilda D'Mello and Sr. Maria Ferrao actively participated and interacted with the youth.

24th November: Sr. Jhansi Mary Chettiar and Sr. Mary Jane Viva participated in the Vocation Jamboree, held at Tanay, Antipolo, organized by Parokay Ng Banal na Krus Parish. Two hundred students were present for the programme. In the group interactive session, the Sisters shared their experiences of Religious life, clarified the doubts of the girls and encouraged them to give a thought to responding to the call

of God. Brochure and pamphlets on vocation were distributed to all.

02nd December: Being the launching of the 'Year of the Youth' in the Philippines, the Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate, Manila, invited some youth from Alabang and other places to attend the youth gathering and encouraged them to become the "Youth of Mother Clara". Sr. Sapna Colaco welcomed the youth and thanked them for



responding to their invitation. Sr. Melanie Malazarte explained to the youth the purpose of the gathering and their role and responsibility as Christian youth. The logo was explained to them. The youth were very happy and enthusiastic throughout the celebration. The program ended with an action song on the theme song for the year of youth followed by snacks.



02nd December: Sr. Jerry Anthony conducted a session for the Confirmation students of Our Lady of Salvation Church, Dadar on the theme "Vocation".

08th December: The Sisters of St. Clare Convent, Meghalaya, visited the village of Umwhalang and met some girls and spoke to them about the Congregation and the charism. Vocation pamphlets were distributed.

16th December: The Sisters of the community of Infant Jesus of



Prague took forty youth of the Parish for a visit to St. Pius X Seminary and Assisi Bhavan at Goregaon. Br. Keith Miranda gave a talk on *Eucharist and Vocation*. They were happy to meet the residents of Assisi Bhavan and put up an entertainment programme. Thereafter, Sr. Maria Angela Fernandes spoke on the life of Blessed Maria Clara at the Mother Clara Exhibition hall. The youth had an enriching time.

HEALTH APOSTOLATE

06th October and 11th October: The camp of “Cancer awareness and Health” was held at Dr. Ambedkar School and at Baresia by Dr. Mrs. Aparna and organized by Mother Clara Hospital. Sr. Lilly Mary Chettair along with five nursing students attended five camps held for the women in the interior villages.

02nd November: Clara Niwas Convent, Bhopal, sheltered a destitute woman, suffering with a wound on her leg infested with maggots (worms). For five days, the Sisters took special care and Sr. Lilly Mary Chettiar helped in treating her.

07th November: Sr. Teresa Rodrigues participated in the youth convention in Vasai Diocese for four 4 days and helped in administering first aid during the convention. It was a memorable experience.

12th November: At Mother Clara Community College, Bhopal, the program of General Duty Nurse recognized by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) started for the freshers and the previous year batch with a total number of 25 students.

27th November: The sixth batch of nursing of Mother Clara Community College, Bhopal, had the Lamp Lighting ceremony and distribution of certificates for the previous batch. The chief guest was Dr. Hardev Singh and the guest of honor was Fr. Edward Francis, procurator of Bhopal Diocese. Sr. Lilly Mary Chettiar read the report of Mother Clara community



College and explained the purpose of this course and how the recognition by National Skill Development Corporation will be a value added certificate and beneficial to the students. Merit certificates and trophies were awarded to the students. This was followed by a cultural



programme and snacks. At the Parent teacher meeting, Sr. Lilly Mary explained about the course and clarified the doubts of the parents.

29th November: The camp on “Cancer awareness and Health” was organized by Mother Clara Hospital, Bhopal, for the girls of tailoring, computer and beautician course at Clara Niketan. 60 girls attended the camp and benefited from it.

01st December: The students of Mother Clara Community College, Bhopal, in collaboration with the “SANMAN” Group performed a street play on ‘HIV’ for the people in the slum area near Railway Fatak on World AIDS/HIV Day, through which, they made the people aware of the seriousness of the disease, how one acquires the disease and it can be prevented.

10th December: Sr. Lilly Mary Chettiar accompanied the students of Mother Clara Community College who started their two months practical training at Chirayu Hospital.

22nd December: The Sisters of Clara Niwas Convent, Bhopal, organized a Christmas party for the Nursing, Tailoring, tuition students, slum children, doctors and the staff of Mother Clara Hospital. Sr. Lilly Mary Chettiar gave the message and the nursing students put up a skit on the Nativity of our Lord. This was followed by interesting games and singing of carols.



EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE

01st October: The students of Std. VIII and Std. IX accompanied by the Principal and the Staff of St. Elizabeth Convent High School, organised a rally to the nearby villages to bring awareness among the people to keep their homes and surroundings clean and explained to them with the help of slogans not to use plastic bags but cloth bags for daily marketing and other requirements.

02nd October: The Sisters, teachers and the students of St. Joseph English Teaching High School, Valsad, took to the streets for a cleanliness campaign and marched till the local library in the market square. They spent some time before the statue of the honourable Mahatma Gandhi.

08th October: An exhibition was held at GIDC Abrama, Engineer College. Young enthusiastic participants of St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari, participated and exhibited their knowledge about science and its innovation and displayed three models of



Science and Maths and bagged the first prize. The models were eye openers on various topics related on Water Harvesting Plant, Soil Conservation Mechanical work of Engine etc.

27th October: An awareness programme on Measles and Rubella Vaccination drive was organized for the parents of Nirmala Convent High School, Nashik City. The resource person of the day was Dr. Kamalakar Lashkare, Surveillance Officer of World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Lashkare inspired, motivated and enlightened the parents to know that India's motto was to eliminate Measles and Rubella like that of Polio and Chicken Pox. A huge gathering of 1500 parents were grateful to the management for organizing such an event.

31st October: The Staff and Students of Std. III and Std IV of Infant Jesus of Prague Convent, Manori, went for a field trip to Keshav Srushti. They were encouraged to be eco-friendly by using the following: Bio-gas Plant, Vermicompost, medicinal plant, cow tent (Gaushala), etc.

02nd November: The students of St. Patrick Convent High School, Devlali, participated in various sports activities at the district level and won prizes as follows: The U-17 girls stood second at Taluka Level Football matches.



- The U-17 boys secured the third place in Inter school cricket match at taluka level and also won the cricket tournament at district level. - Harshita Jadhav of Std. VII stood First at District Level and is selected for Divisional Level. Taikwando–Boys: Yash Naidoo of IX and Siddesh Godse of VIII stood first at District Level and are also selected for Divisional Level. - Skating–Girls: Anushka Shirsat of Std. III stood first at the district level. Sneha Patole of std. IX A stood first level at divisional level and they are selected at the state level. - Skating – Boys : Atharva Shahane of IX stood First at District Level and is selected for Divisional Level. Sai Patole of V and Amrutesh Gite of X stood first at Divisional Level and are selected for State Level. - Lawn Tennis – Om Patole of Std. IX stood First at State Level and is selected for National Level.

26th November: Pine conducted the National Language Examination for the students from Std. V to Std. X. Many students of St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari, secured meritorious results and four students secured the top rank and were awarded the Gold Medal.

27th November: The students of Infant Jesus of Prague convent school, Manori, participated in the inter school competition in M.K.E.S school, Malad. The children participated in the activities such as Clay Modeling, Drawing, Solo singing, book jacket designing, Fusion dance, etc. Master Hansala Mukadam bagged the third consolation prize for book jacket designing.



11th December: Students of various schools from H- ward participated in the Science competition at St. Elias High School, Khar on the theme

“Scientific solutions for challenges in life”. The students of Mount Mary Convent High School, Bandra, created a project on the sub theme of “Agriculture and Organic farming “on the topic – “Aquaponics” and won the 1st Prize.



18th December: The Sisters and the students of St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari, made a trip to Vasai and Dahanu to distribute the items collected from the students and to spread joy,



love and happiness among the children. The students and teachers spent quality time and distributed the things to the children. They were delighted to see the underprivileged children extremely talented, well mannered and disciplined. At Dahanu, the tribal girls sang beautiful Marathi songs. The students were touched and tears rolled down by the love, affection and hospitality showed by the children of Vasai and Dahanu.

20th December: A programme was organized for the specially abled children of Rusi Irani Centre, Devlali, in Mother Clara Hall, Devlali. The students of Std. III and IV presented a beautiful dance for them. The children enjoyed themselves.

21st December: The students of Convent Girls' High School participated in a rally under the theme “Anti-Litter Day” for the awareness of Swacha Bharat Abhiyaan.



22nd December: With a festive mood and a mark of Christmas message of sharing and caring, the students of St. Joseph E.T.High School, Bilimora, along with the Sisters and staff visited

the Talod village, Oriya Moriya School, Desra Road, a place near Somnath Temple and donated food grains, grocery items, blankets, toiletries, books and snacks to the poor and needy.

25th December: Through a prayer dance, carol singing and a creative skit, the students of St. Philomena Convent High School, Nashik Road, gave the Christmas message to the participants of the Inter-religious meet held at St. Ann's Cathedral.

28th December: Mohiba Patni, Janish Patel and Divya Bohra brought glory to St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari, by securing medals at the National level Kudo at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Siddharth Mayal, bagged the Black Belt in Karate by Nihonsiki Karate and Sports Federation and was awarded the Best Student of Gujarat.

29th December: The Sisters of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi, organized a Christmas party for the Street children of the locality. There were games, dance and distribution of prizes followed by snacks and Sweets.



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

01st October: The students of Mount Mary Convent High School and Boarding put up a welcome and a prayer dance for the meeting of the laity commission organised by the CCBI held at the Retreat House, Bandra.



04th October: The Fashfic members of St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the children of Libania Niketan and the boarding. Games and gifts were distributed to all. It was followed by a delicious fellowship meal.

20th November: Sr. Stella John and Sr. Maria Ferrao accompanied thirty boarding children to attend the celebration of 2nd Anniversary of Kerala Hotel newly opened in Vasai and enjoyed the delicious meal which was served for them and was grateful for their kindness and hospitality. Each received a token of appreciation from them and assured to pray for them

23rd November: The Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, with the help of the catholic teachers association from different zones of Vasai organised a programme to celebrate Children's day for the children of the parish including our boarding children and Libania Niketan. Fr. Thomas D'Souza celebrated the Holy Eucharist followed by a prayer session by the parish fathers. A short documentary film based on 'Love for Humanity' was shown to the children. The Sisters conducted the Bible quiz, games and action songs. They also helped in serving the snacks and lunch for the children who were very happy.

24th November: Sr. Maria Ferrao accompanied 15 boarding children of Std. IX and children of Libania Niketan to Gonsalo Garcia School to participate in the children's day celebration organised by the Vasai Diocese. Rev. Archbishop Felix Machado and other important members of child welfare institutions were present. Children from other institutions performed various items.

07th December: Ms. Shravani, Komal, Anushka, Anamikha, Aparna and Simran of Libania Niketan, Vasai, participated in the district level - Inter School Annual Sports at Palghar. Twenty two schools participated in this event. Shravani, Komal and Simran won gold medals in the running race and in the fast walking race and Anamikha, Aparna and Anushka won the silver medals in the sports events.



27th December: Sr. Maria Waghmare and Sr. Maria Ferrao accompanied the children of Libania Niketan to attend the Christmas programme at Kripa foundation, Papdy. Every child was asked to perform an item spontaneously. They also participated in a fellowship meal. To show their love and concern each child was given a blanket as a Christmas gift. The children enjoyed the Christmas programme.

29th December: Sr. Delphine Almeida accompanied Miss. Sneha Das and Miss. Prablin of Mount Mary Boarding and Mount Mary Convent High School, Bandra, who secured the first prize in the General Knowledge Quiz competition organized at Father Agnel Ashram, Bandra.



ANNUAL DAY AND ANNUAL SPORTS MEET 2018

As part of the activities of the educational institutions, the Annual Day and the Annual Sports Meet was held in the following Institutions:

30th November: Annual Day of Mount Mary Convent High School, Bandra. The theme, 'Incredible India' was beautifully depicted by the students performing the dances of all the States of India in colorful costumes. The Chief Guest was Mr. Aarif Ali, Advocate – High Court.

01st December: St. Philomena Convent High School, Nashik Road, celebrated its Annual day with the theme – Be the change – Save and protect the environment. Sr. Bertilla Pen was the Chief Guest.

05th and 06th December: The annual programme of St. Joseph English Teaching High School, Valsad, was held. Dr. Abhijeet Mhaskar and Mr. Pankaj Ahir, Mayor of Valsad, were the chief guest on each day respectively. The drama, "Love, the only answer" was staged very creatively emphasizing the importance of taking care of Mother Earth which is infested with enormous problems and *Love* is the only solution.

06th December: A musical – *Christmas Carol* was organized on the annual day of Nirmala Convent High School, Nashik City. Mr. Ratan Luth, Vice Chairman of Fravashi International Academy was the Chief Guest.

08th December: The annual day of Infant Jesus of Prague Primary School,

Manori, was held, to inaugurate the opening of the golden jubilee celebrations of the school. Rev. Fr. Edward Jacinto, Parish Priest of Holy Magi Church, Gorai, was the Chief Guest. The students displayed cultural dances and an east-Indian song on the history of the school.

11th December: St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari, witnessed the glitz and glamour of the Annual Day celebration on the theme – International Year of the Reef. Dr. C.J.Dangaria, Vice-Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University was the Chief Guest. Everyone was invited to make a strong decision to save environment and nature.

14th December: Annual Parents day of Jeevandhara Kanya Ashram, Ashagad, was held with the theme – Eat healthy, stay healthy. Dr. B.Rajput, Professor of Godavari College was the Chief Guest.

14th December: Annual Sports Day of Convent Girls' High School, Prabhadevi, was held with the theme – Christmas brings hope, peace, joy and love to all humankind. Bro. Sebastian George, Principal of Our Lady of Salvation High School, was the chief guest.

14th December: The theme of the Annual day of St. Patrick Convent High School, Devlali, was “A step towards humanity”. The Chief Guest was Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh Salaria, VSM, Commandant, School of Artillery. It was a grand success.

15th December: St. Joseph English Teaching High School, Bilimora, organized their annual day. Dr. Apurva Desai – Dean, VNSGU, Surat, was the Chief Guest. The theme ‘Family is forever’ was well depicted through dances and a skit followed by the Christmas message.

19th December: The annual Sports Day of St. Elizabeth Convent High School, Holi, Vasai, was held with the theme – Save Mother Earth. Mr. Raymond Machado was the Chief Guest.

20th December: St. Philomena Marathi Primary School, Nashik Road, had their annual day with the theme – Change your thoughts, your life will change. Rev. Fr. Robert Pen, Rector of Divyadaan, Don Bosco Institute, was the Chief Guest.

22nd December: Sports Day of Bal Jesu Sevasadan High School, Nashik Road. Rev. Fr. Sabby Corria, Principal of St. Francis Xavier High School Manmad, was the Chief Guest. Colorful drills brought out the theme – Joy of Christmas.

DIVERSE PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

02nd October: Sr. Sophia Colaco and Sr. Roshani Bendoamar along with the batch of tailoring students went to Shanti Nagar, Pilar Institute for a programme organized by Fr. Franklin. The students were felicitated with a certificate and a sewing machine by the German benefactors.

13th October: Sr. Brinal Fereira and Sr. Monica Baptist accompanied forty confirmation students for two days mission experience at Ashagad and Dongripada, Dahanu.

28th October: The Sisters of Jeevan Jyoti Convent, Jhabua, visited the poor children of the school who come from far-away villages. The Sisters distributed sweets to the children and spent some time with them. They also visited Mrs. Brown, a Canadian, who is doing charitable mission work for last 67 years in Jobat.

17th November: The community of St. Joseph Novitiate, Manila, Philippines, started their fund-raising activity “UKAY-UKAY” sale on the parish grounds along with other parishioners. Many generous parishioners donated their goods for this cause.

02nd December: The Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada, helped in the thanksgiving Mass (Arpanachi mesa) offering of the new paddy and the First Holy Communion of the village children held in Ashagad. The Sisters took care of the food for almost two hundred people from different villages.



09th December: The Sisters of St. Joseph Cathedral Convent, Lucknow, joined an outreach programme organized by Mahila Mandal of St. Joseph Cathedral, Lucknow. They visited the visually impaired,



speaking and hearing impediment and street children. Children also displayed their talents, skills and abilities. They are well trained by the priests and sisters. Stationary and eatables were distributed to all. It was very enriching for each and everyone.

16th December: The Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, Vasai, helped with the funeral ceremony of Doctor Lesley Francis Gonsalves, a great benefactor, who took care of the medical facilities of our children as well as the Sisters. The Sisters and boarding children arranged the things in the hall, helped to maintain discipline and conducted prayers and rosaries.

18th December: On the occasion of Christmas, the Sisters of the Provincial House visited the orphans of St. Catherine Home for the Destitute children and shared with them the



message of the birth of Christ. A prayer was recited by Sr. Marjorie followed by the singing of carols. The sixty-five children and the domestic helpers were happy to receive gift hampers with toilet requisites along with a chocolate.

19th December: As part of the Christmas charity to the poor, the Sisters of St.



Francis
of Assisi

Convent, Navsari, distributed blankets to thirty beggars near Ashapuri Mandir.

21st December: The Sisters of St. Clare Convent, Meghalaya, organized a Christmas party for about 300 children of the Jakrem village which began with a

prayer and Christmas carols. Bro. Brosterwell Jyrwa led them in prayer and a Christmas message. Games were organized and were enjoyed by all. A gift token was distributed to all the children.

26th December: The Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada, went to Masupada village to share the joy of Christmas with the children and Teachers of Z. P.

School. Sr. Theresa D'Abreo conducted games for the children, Sr. Helen Pereira spoke a few words of encouragement and Sr. Veronica Dushing gave



away the prizes. The Sisters also distributed notebooks and biscuits to all the children who were very happy and thankful to the sisters because it was for the first time that they enjoyed the games and togetherness of the Sisters.

28th December: Sr. Stella John and Sr. Maria Waghmare accompanied the children of Libania Niketan for the Christmas programme at Umed. The children performed Koli dance and Christmas- tableau combined with music and dance, trained by Sr. Maria Ferrao. Rt. Rev. Archbishop Felix Machado was the chief guest. The children were given a blanket as a Christmas gift.

28th December: In order to spread the love and joy of Christmas, the poor children of Mishrashala School, Navsari, were invited to St. Francis of Assisi Convent High School, Navsari. The staff cooked delicious lunch and served them. Games were organized with attractive prizes. All the children returned happily with paper bags and cake.



29th December: The Sisters of St. Philomena Convent, Nashik Road, joined the youth in the Christmas Tree organized on the school ground. It was a fun-filled evening with carol singing, games and prizes. Sr. Lalita Dalmat and Sr. Gloria Manbhat along with teachers performed a skit – The love of God for humanity.

December: During the festive season of Christmas, many Sisters in the different States, joined the parishioners in the singing of carols and thus visited many homes, spreading the goodness of Christmas to all families which brought smiles and happiness to all, specially the sick and the needy.

PRISON MINISTRY

23rd December: Sr. Rosita Gomes of Mount Mary Convent, distributed snack packets to the 100 resident members of



Assisi Bhavan, Goregaon. The Gandhi Kusht Ashram of 75 families at Agra was helped financially.

25th December: Twenty five families were greeted at Mount Mary Convent, Bandra, and given a gift and snacks.

26th December: Sisters and lay people participated in the Holy Eucharist for the eleven inmates of Bandra Jail. Rev. Fr. Anthony Alphonso was the main celebrant. Snacks were distributed to all.

27th December: The Eucharist was celebrated for the sixty teenagers at the Juvenile Home at David Sassoon, Matunga. Snacks and financial aid was given.

28th December: The three Observation homes at Mankhurd were visited by twenty youth, 20 parishioners of St. Francis Church, Dabul and seventy people from Bandra. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated. Each home had 140 orphans, 170 children of single parents and 260 mentally challenged children. Snacks and financial help was given.

29th December: The Holy Eucharist was celebrated for 350 children residing at the Children's Aid Society at Umerkhadi. Snacks and financial help was given.

ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY

04th October: The feast of St. Francis of Assisi was conducted for the residents of Assisi Bhavan, Goregaon. There was sharing of prayers and praising God for His creation. Appropriate hymns were sung to thank God for the gift of St. Francis followed by a game of musical chairs and a joyful get together.



14th October: The holy Rosary was conducted at the Grotto of Our Lady along with a few parishioners and the residents of Assisi Bhavan. After the rosary, snacks and cold drinks were served to all.

22nd December: Christmas party was organized for the residents of Assisi Bhavan, the Sisters and all the domestic helpers. The Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, put up a skit with a meaningful message of Christmas which was followed by music, dance, games and snacks. It was the most enjoyable evening wherein they also received prizes.

BLESSED MARIA CLARA DO MENINO JESUS

21st October: Sr. Antonia Zuzad conducted a session on the life, beauty and the virtues of Mother Clara with the catechism students. Sr. Antonia also briefed the students on the charism of Mother Clara and her various projects of charity. Mother Clara prayer cards were distributed to the students present.

08th November: Sr. Afra D'Souza along with fifteen FASFHIC members went on a pilgrimage to the church of Our Lady of the Sea and to Our Lady of Velankanni, Uttan, where they spent some quiet time in prayer and prayed the Rosary and the Crown of praises.

24th November: Sr. Afra D'Souza along with the FASFHIC members visited Shanti Niwas, a home for the destitute and mentally challenged, at St. Pius college campus, Goregaon. At present there are 11 inmates who come from different religious faith. The members carried breakfast for the inmates. The crown of praises of Mother Clara was then recited. One of the members Mr. Conrad D'Silva strummed the guitar and

hummed a few old popular Hindi songs which regaled the inmates and brought a smile on their faces. Fr. David beautifully summed that the mission of the home is: Encountering Jesus by serving the inmates in their daily needs.



30th November: The Transitus service to commemorate the 176th Death Anniversary of our Foundress, Blessed Mother Maria Clara do Menino Jesus was conducted in all the fraternities.

At Jeevan Jyoti Convent, Jhabua, the Sisters stressed on her love for the Church and predilection for the poor, which is alive in the charism that is lived and promoted day to day by her daughters all over the world among the poor and needy people. The parishioners made prayers asking God for the speedy canonization of Mother Clara. The Sisters gave some background of Mother Clara's life and the good she did for the poor of Lisbon and the suffering that she endured with patience and humility. Snacks were served to all present.

The Sisters of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi, invited the Fasfhic members to be a part of the Transitus service in honour of Mother Clara of the Child Jesus, conducted by Sr. Maria D'Souza. There were 20 members present. Snacks and tea was served for all.

At St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, Vasai, the day began with a prayer service to commemorate the Death Anniversary of Blessed Maria Clara, conducted by Sr. Matilda D'Mello with the help of the Sisters, followed by the Eucharistic celebration. Fasfhic/League members, teachers and children were present for the Eucharist. The main celebrant was Fr. Thomas D' Souza. The Sisters distributed snacks to the poor children of the school.

MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

02nd October: Sr. Afra D'Souza and Sr. Maria Angela Fernandes attended a Seminar at Our Lady of Visitation, Navi Mumbai, on Infiltration of the government into the personal, professional, institutional domains and the influence of social media on our social, political and economic life. The

resource persons were Fr. Dr. Joseph SVD and Fr. Cleo Braganza SDB.

02nd October: Sr. Catherine Gonsalves attended the peace rally held on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti where people of different religion were present.

20th and 21st October: Sr. Catherine Gonsalves and Sr. Sophia Colaco attended the two days charismatic retreat conducted by Rev. Fr. Anil at Assumption Church, Arora Colony, Bhopal.

21st October: Sr. Lilly Mary Chettair participated in a meeting held by the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) at Secunderabad.

28th October: Sr. Lilly Mary Chettair and Sr. Catherine Gonsalves attended a one day Teachers training programme for community college organized by ICRDCE at Chennai.

30th October: Sr. Maria Ferrao and Sr. Maria Waghmare attended a seminar on POCOS, The resource persons were from the Child Welfare Committee.

22nd November: Sr. Fatima Menezes of St. Joseph E.T.High School, Valsad, along with a few teachers and students attended the programme organized by GEBCI for all the catholic schools of the diocese to commemorate 25 years of action in the field of education.

23rd November: Sr. Catherine Gonsalves attended two days pastoral council meeting at the pastoral center. Nearly 300 members were gathered and the topic for discussion was pastoral guidelines for the Archdiocese of Bhopal, for the Laity, Religious brothers, Sisters and Priests.

15th and 16th November: Sr. Kalpana Lopes attended the DSWD Haven for the Elderly 'Programme Intensification of Referral System and Annual Donor's Forum at Cloud9 hotel Antipolo. The main purpose of this meeting was to promote partnership among government agencies and non-government agencies for the protection and best welfare of the Senior Citizen and to strengthen networking and linkages to partners, volunteers and sponsors for the welfare and rehabilitation of the elderly.

15th to 18th November: Sr. Leopoldina Miranda and Sr. Catherine Rodrigues participated in the National Training for Social work directors and coordinators organized by AFFI at St. Fidelis Ashram, Lucknow. The programme aimed at empowering the marginalized through various government schemes, effective net working and specific projects especially for women and people living below the poverty line. About 60 religious and priests of different congregations participated in it. The sessions were very informative, challenging consecrated men and women to be more actively involved in the struggles of the poor and work for their upliftment.

ANNUAL DAY AND ANNUAL SPORTS MEET 2018

