



Mother Anna Huberta Roggendorf
Founder of the Society of Helpers of Mary

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 2017

Award for Mukhta Jivan

"ANANDVAN of Shahapur" was the new qualifying title given to Mukhta Jivan by the NGO -SAHYOG that conferred this Award. On September 30, 2017 'SAHYOG' a voluntary organization, which is run by a few laypersons headed by Mr. Simon Martin of Bhuigaon, Vasai selected our Institution that completed 30 years of humanitarian services specially for the patients of Hansen's Disease. It was a proud moment for all the Sisters of Mukhta Jivan who have tirelessly and generously contributed their valuable services since the inception of our work here. We graciously remembered each and every Sister and all the supporting staff who have rendered their tender loving care to all the leprosy patients, senior citizens and patients with HIV/AIDS.



It was a unique function in which handouts with stories of Mother Anna Huberta's vision for The Helpers of Mary, the origin of our ministry among the patients in the Leprosy Colony at Borivili and giving a liberated life in Mukhta Jivan at Vehloli were distributed. The Sahayog Trust has done a bold act of evangelization by gifting each recipient an award, a beautiful Cross besides cash awards. May God bless these initiatives.

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Sr. Seema Pidiyath shm, Mukhta Jivan, Vehloli

Swacha Bharat

On October 2, 2017 - Gandhi Jayanti, the Children, Sisters and Staff of Balwatika - Dadra Mission observed a clean surrounding from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. The main purpose of this program was to create awareness among the girls concerning cleanliness and its benefits. The students of 1st to 12th class, made coconut brooms and cleaned the entire surroundings inside and out. The little girls went to the playground and began picking wrappers and plastics. Some others plucked out the overgrown grass. After collecting the trash it was deposited in the dustbins. Each of them were given an awareness talk that they need to keep themselves and the place they live in very clean. Hygienic surroundings will keep us healthy physically and mentally. The Children pledged together with raised voice "let us keep our city clean, our village clean and our home clean".

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Sr. Suman Pavartikaran shm, Balwatika, Dadra



SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY - GENERALATE,
Shraddha Vihar, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400 058 Tel. 91-22-26766845 E-mail : sparksgeneralate@gmail.com

Blessed the Foundation of Samarpan Convent

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Mt 16:18). These verses marked the sentiments for each of us, the Sisters of Samparan Community, MSFS Fathers, Parishioners and well wishers, as we laid the foundation for Samparan Convent on September 30, 2017. Fr. Sandeep MSFS led the service in a prayerful vibration. Sr. Daisy Mulakkal, the Provincial Superior of North Province laid the foundation stone in the presence of Sr. Padmini, the Superior and members Sr. Swati and Sr. Jossina.

It was a long awaited dream of the SHM Samparan community to have a convent that will provide a suitable housing for the Sisters who are currently living in a rented room. It will also provide a clinic where the poor patients can get medical help and treatment. This desire of ours was further strengthened with the interest and encouragement of our Superior General, Sr. Stella Devassy and her council, who proposed this plan to the Provincial Superior, Sr. Daisy Mullakkal. With the help and support of Provincial Superior and her team, we initiated the process.



We gratefully remember Rev. Fr. Jacob MSFS the former Provincial and the present Provincial Rev Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy and Rev. Fr. Bijay Kerketa the former parish priest who were the driving force to actualize this dream as they have offered us this piece of land. We raise our hearts to God in thankfulness for enabling us to begin this construction. We sincerely thank our Superior General Sr. Stella and her Councilors, Sr. Daisy and the councilors and all those who helped us in this process. Blessing of the foundation stone of Samparan Convent marks a great milestone in the history of the Helpers of Mary especially for the North Province.

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Sr. Padmini Puthenveliyilshm, Samarpan, Odisha

Being together blossoms new energy



Every year we, the Junior Sisters eagerly wait to participate in the Juniorate program, which is a thriving experience, that one can ever have in life to get energized and to equip ourselves with the awareness of our today's world.

We, forty vibrant Juniors, future twinkling stars of the Helpers of Mary began an awesome opening ceremony with an introduction by Sr. Priya, our Junior Director. We placed butterflies on the sunflower which represents Jesus, the source of life and we, the nectar gatherer were strengthened through the various sessions like Gospel of St. Matthew, session on account matters, basic computer, etiquette, India's major religions, Evolution of religious life, spiritual direction and community life which helped us to recognize the purpose of our lives and give meaning to others lives. All these sessions brought a significant growth in spiritual, intellectual, personal and emotional levels where we could discover our own potentialities and to continue the mission, which is entrusted to us.

Bill Richardson states "We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together" yes the other co-activities like group discussion, debate, exams, enacting the parables in today's context has broaden our intellectual ability. Each ones opinions and creative ideas in the group inspired and motivated us to pursue the situations of life in different angles. A day of outing made us relaxed and refreshed. On October 14, 2017 we presented a cultural program "Igniting the rainbow of God's love". It was a unique experience where we could see every one enjoying and appreciating the wonderful and thrilling performance which made the evening a colorful one.

Retreat is time where we retire from all the activities and adopt newness to life, a special time set apart to experience the empowering presence of God in us. The insights and the reflections of Fr. Lancy Prabhu SJ, the retreat preacher led us to discover oneself and to be transformed. On Monday, October 23, 2017 we renewed our Vows during the Eucharistic Celebration. It was a wonderful God given opportunity to be refreshed and to be renewed by being with one another, this brought an interior bliss that banished all our bitterness. We are grateful to the Almighty God, Rev. Sr. Stella, our Superior General, her team and our community Sisters who allowed us to take this opportunity to renew ourselves and regain new energy.

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Junior Sisters

Inspiring to Make a Difference

I am a thirty three years old married woman. My husband is working in a private school as a sweeper. I have three children; two boys and one girl, they are all schooling. I wasn't sure how and where to make a start to assist in additional earning for my struggling family. When I came to know about the Self Help Group (SHG) and their activities, I was very excited. I joined this self-help group. For the last four years I am an active member of SHG. Here I learned how to save money in the group and how to take benefits from the bank and from the Brihammumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).



Through the help of Mahila Bal Vikas Kendra - Malwani under the care of the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary, who organized various trainings for the women, gave me an opportunity to avail training in Driving, English Speaking, Karate, Artificial Jewellery etc. After learning how to make artificial jewellery, I started to earn by doing work at home. I also work as a driver. At present I got a good job and sufficient salary. Besides working I attend Night College, studying for second year Junior college and I will be appearing for my board exams. I have a great desire to continue my studies and complete my graduation. I am happy with my husband and my children who support me. I am ever grateful to Srs. Irene, Saira, Rajini and the social workers who have played a significant role in my life. The Sisters are my inspiration and they have inspired me and encouraged me to take firm steps for the further, which enabled me to make a difference in my life, family and society.

Mrs. Pushpa Govind Rathod, Malwani

Awareness on Alcohol and Drug addict

Alcohol and drug addict has emerged a serious concern among the youth and it is developing into a physical and mental problems. Hence on September 29, 2017 we organized an awareness talk for the 205 inmates in sub-jail. The resource person was Mr. Vijay Pathare, the Councilor gave inputs on alcohol and drug addict, its stages, causes, symptoms and its ill effects. The purpose of this program was to make them aware of the struggles they go through as they are kept away from alcohol and drugs while they are in custody.



After this awareness program some of the inmates were literally crying for their mistakes that they had made under the influence of alcohol. Several of them revealed that they were here because of heavy drinking (alcohol) and drug addiction, which led them to commit these crimes. They became aware of all their wrong doings towards families, relatives and other people. They were very grateful to us for organizing such an awareness program which helped them to change and to say no to crime. The Jail Superintendent requested us to conduct such programs again so that there will be much changes in these inmates when they leave the Jail and start their life once again in society.

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Sr. Shweta Dabreshm, Anand Vihar, Tilaknagar

CONGRATULATIONS

Srs. Carmina, Dominica, Joanita, Joana, Lavina, Meena, Sulochana, Severine Philomena, Patricia and Usha on



of your service to God, to the Church, and to our world.

Jubilee is a time to Count the Blessings

*Gratitude is memory of the heart that will
recognize the good done...*



God called us and we responded, God whispered and we listened. We, the Silver Jubilarians recall the path we have travelled; twenty-five years of service to God and His poor. We believe these years were most blessed and precious. We are grateful to God for calling us to be the Helpers of Mary. Truly, God graced us to live in the spirit of our Founder, Mother Anna Huberta.

It's a perfect time to count the numerous blessings of God. He is over generous and compassionate, in pouring His blessings despite of our unworthiness. In Old Testament we hear Yahweh's promise to the forefathers 'I am with you and keep you wherever you go I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you'. (Gen 28:15)

We, Sr. Carmina, Sr. Dominica , Sr. Joanita, Sr. Joana, Sr. Lavina, Sr. Meena, Sr. Sulochana, Sr. Severine Sr. Philomena, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Usha have journeyed to different mission stations and have engaged ourselves in various ministries; to heal the sick, to guide and accompany the young, to care for the elderly, to instruct and nurture the children and to empower women. On our way we experienced the unconditional love of God. Every time we faced trials and tribulations He lifted us up and embraced tenderly, whispered 'I love you and I am with you'. Yes we have experienced God and He made our religious life meaningful and divine.

From nothingness we were called, He chose us among many. We left our home, our family and joined the Helpers

of Mary. He rewarded us in hundred fold. He molded us according to His likeness through our senior Sisters, our Formators, the leaders of our Congregation, through our beloved family members, friends and well-wishers to become a blessing for the unloved, the poor, marginalized, the sick and suffering humanity.

We are proud to be Marys and follow in the footsteps of Mary, our Mother and Model. We fondly cherish the beautiful Charism left by our Founder Mother Anna Huberta, a saintly person. May Mother Anna Huberta continue to bless and guide us to be joyful Marys.

We owe gratitude to Sr. Stella, our Superior General, all the Sisters, Friends, Well Wishers for their valuable contributions which added Joy, hope and faith in our lives during past 25 magnificent years. Thank you for your prayers. We are sure you will assist us on our journey while we move into the future with great gusto, commitment and zeal.

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Sr. Severine D'Souza shm

Heartfelt Condolence

Sr. Ignacia Xess lost her Mother

Sr. Flory D'Souza lost her Brother

May their souls rest in peace...

