



# M. M. MUMBAI

## *voices*

October - December 2017  
Vol. 8 No. 2

Province of St. Mary Mazzarello, Mumbai India (INB)  
(Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco)



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND  
O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

***In this New Year 2018***

# MEETING WITH THE RECTOR MAJOR



## FMA PCI



### CONTENTS

- ✦ Editorial
- ✦ 'Better roses now than bouquets later'- Sr. Alexandra Dias
- ✦ Christ in the poor
- ✦ Important facts of St. Joseph Vaz
- ✦ Liturgy of Don Bosco
- ✦ Special event at the PCI
- ✦ Particular happenings in our Province
- ✦ Exceptional activities in our communities
- ✦ Significant events in our houses
- ✦ New Projects
- ✦ Common events
- ✦ MM Mumbai's practical suggestions for going GREEN
- ✦ Advice of Mary Mazzarello in 2018
- ✦ Our gratitude to our missionaries
- ✦ Remembering our dear departed
- ✦ Salesian saints

**M.M. MUMBAI VOICES**  
is for private circulation  
only

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Sr. Hilda Braganza / Sr. Lavita Sequeira  
Sr. Melissa D'Souza / Sr. Antonette Rebello

**AMAR MEDIA CENTRE**  
Mazzarello Youth Centre, P.Bag 18001,  
Wadala, Mumbai - 400 031.  
Email: mazzarelloinb@gmail.com

**DESIGN, LAYOUT & PRINTED**

**Genesis Arts:**  
Wadala, Mumbai - 400 031.  
Mob: 98693 14354

## EDITORIAL



“ We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. ”

**T**.S. Eliot in his book *Four Quartets*, writes “For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.”

All of us await a new beginning. As we meet one another these days we hear the familiar greeting: ‘Happy New Year 2018’. To celebrate the New Year there are New Year Balls, family reunions, parties and merriment. But is the New Year only that? Or is it something more? The festive mood will soon change; families will continue their old schedule, the music and dance will soon stop. The tinsels will lose their glitter and the decorations in our homes will return to their boxes and packed away till another Christmas and New Year come around. Does it mean that the New Year is limited to only the first week of January? Can we make the New Year last longer, even beyond January 2018?

New Year is all about being new from within: new ideas, positive thoughts, news attitudes, new kind words, a new gaze, a new glance, a new heart. In this way the New Year will go on and on over the weeks and months of 2018. We will not have to limit our New Year wishes to 1st January... a change of heart and mind can happen any day, anytime. It doesn’t need a specific day or time.

Can we walk this path of inner conversion all by ourselves? We know it is just not possible. Inner conversion needs a helping hand from above—the hand of Someone who has walked before us.

On whom can we rely on if not Mary, Our Blessed Mother? Mother Church has given us Mother Mary to start each brand New Year. Do we have to search for another model?

“Mary my Mother, I place my hand into yours. PLEASE TAKE ME BY THE HAND O MY GOOD MOTHER AND LEAD ME TO JESUS. Help me to place my unknown future into the hands of a knowing and loving God”.

A Happy New Year 2018 to all of you! May we all feel the loving and guiding hand of Our Blessed Mother as we journey through the days of 2018.

**Sr. Lavita E. Sequeira fma** 

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

## A life lived for others- Sr. Alexandra Dias

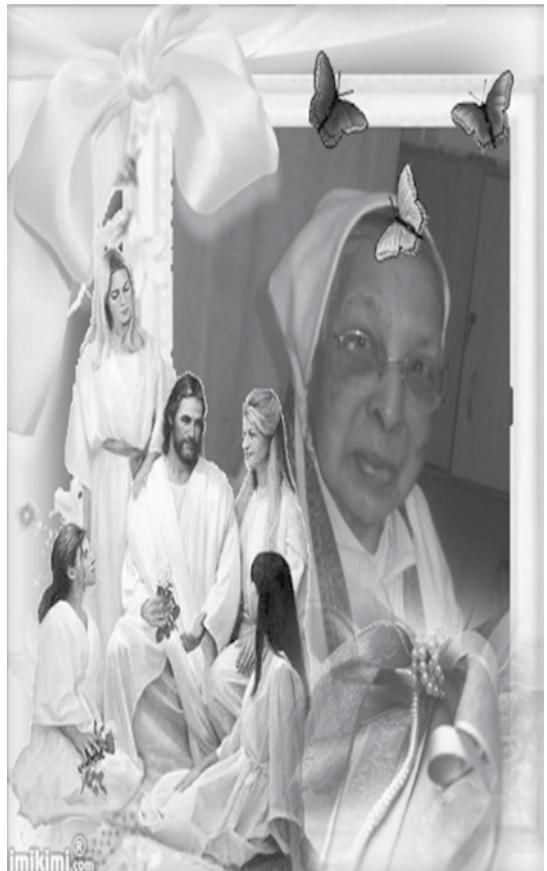
I was born in Nairobi - East Africa on 9th Feb 1932. My parents were Goans. We were 4 children in the family - three daughters and one son. My only brother died when he was three months old. I did my high school with the Anglo Loreto Nuns. Our Parish in Nairobi was the Holy Family Church and there were two priests; one of them said that I have a vocation and he gave me books of Saints to read. When I completed my studies I returned to Goa. In Goa there was an English medium school. During prayer they used to sing the hymn "Nearer my God to thee". For seven days it was ringing in my ears. It was as if God was calling me. I did not know the Salesian sisters but my father's relative had a confessor Fr. Scuderi who told me that I should join the Salesian sisters because they do not make distinctions between persons. And so, instead of joining the Holy Cross sisters, I joined the Salesian sisters.

I joined the Salesian congregation in the year 1950 at the age of 18. I was very anxious to become a sister. I don't know how much I loved Jesus but I wanted to become a sister. When I wanted to join, my father told me that I was too young, but all the same he gave me the permission to join the convent. Before I entered the Congregation my two sisters were married. My elder sister did not have children after her marriage, but after I joined she got the blessing of a child.

I still remember when I joined, the sisters used to say that we must eat well in order to become strong and to work for others. I made my first profession in the year 1953 and my final profession in the year 1959. When I was making my final vows, I started crying and Mother Cesira encouraged me to pronounce my vows so I did so.

After my first profession, the first House I was assigned to was the one at Broadway in Madras. Mother Helen was my guiding light. She taught me to fix a pin on to my sleeves as a reminder of something. One day Sr. Helen asked me why I had put the pin on my sleeve. It was a reminder of something I had to do but I had forgotten for what I had put the pin itself. Mother Helen laughed heartily at my forgetfulness.

*Sr. Alexandra is presently in the community of Laura Vicuna Niwas, Ahmednagar. She is engaged in the Praying Ministry of the province.*



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

## Finding Christ in the poor

In Mt. 19:21 we hear Jesus saying: "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." How will I find Christ in the poor? As I sat reflecting on this question I was reminded of a story "Paid in full with a glass of milk." This tale of a rich woman, who reaches out to a poor hungry boy with a glass of milk, receives her reward many years later from the same boy who, having become a renowned doctor, treats her without charge, writing on her hospital bill: "Paid in full with a glass of milk". I truly believe that the kind hearted lady must have seen Christ in this poor hungry lad. Her act of kindness was not in vain.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis recalls a scene during the election of the Pope: "I was seated next to the Archbishop Emeritus of Sao Paolo, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a good friend of mine. When things were looking dangerous, he encouraged me. And when the votes reached two thirds, there was the usual applause, because the Pope had been elected. And he gave me a hug and a kiss and leaned in and said: "Don't forget the poor!". And those words came to me: the poor, the poor. Then, right away, thinking of the poor, I thought of St. Francis of Assisi, after whom I chose the name."

Pope Francis is a living example who helps us see Christ especially in the poor and the needy. Jesus himself being poor loved the unfortunate ones unconditionally and composed the hymn of praise: the beatitudes. Let us have a look at this text to see who are ranked as blessed: "Blessed are you, who are poor, who are hungry, who are meek, who are persecuted – it is to these that the Kingdom of heaven belongs". Pope Francis is reminding us that love for the poor should be at the heart of our call. He is reminding us that we will be called a church only when we are in direct communion with these most beloved of Jesus – the poor.

SR. PRIYA TAURO

Administrator,  
Mazzarello Centre, Uttan



The little things we do in our daily life counts – said my religion teacher of Std. IV. It means just giving a glass of water to the thirsty, some bread to the hungry, shelter to the homeless and a smile to those who are sad and weary. In order to do this I need not be highly qualified; a little love and compassion will set things right. "No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us." 1 Jn. 4:12

Walking the streets outside my house every day, I encounter many such opportunities: an old woman waiting to cross the road, a blind beggar begging and a little child lost on the street. Do I just remain pitying these situations or am I able to rise above appearances and see Christ in them? To be sincere, most of us would have to confess that seeing Christ in people whom we meet in the course of the day is really challenging. But that is precisely what we human beings, especially Christians, are called to do. For Jesus Himself has told us: "love your neighbour as yourself".

Helping the poor is not just an act of generosity; it is our sacred duty as baptised Christians and followers of Jesus. This service is something that one should not resent but embrace joyfully for in doing so we will truly practice the words of Jesus: "whatsoever you did for one of these least sisters and brothers of mine, you did it for me." Mt. 25:40

Becoming JESUS to others and seeing JESUS in others is really a lifelong journey. Pope Francis in his homily on the first world day of the poor said that the Poor are our 'Passport to Paradise', explaining that it is an evangelical duty for Christians to care for the poor as they are our true wealth. Let us all take care of this "our wealth" for they become our Passport to enter Paradise.

PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



O MY GOOD MOTHER...

## Do you know this great missionary - St. Joseph Vaz?

Important facts about his life (as told by Fr. Romualdo Rodrigues)

1. Joseph Vaz was born on a Friday 21st April 1651 in Benaulim, Goa, baptized on a Friday and died on a Friday 16th January 1711 in Kandy, Sri Lanka.
2. The day he was born his father saw a bright star at noon shining over the house of his birth at Benaulim.
3. The doors of the Cortalim church opened on its own when he visited the Blessed Sacrament during the nights.
4. He wrote the 'Letter of Bondage' to Our Blessed Mother on 5th August 1677.
5. He resolved to eat kanji (rice broil) for his food throughout his life.
6. He dressed himself as a coolie, a beggar and slipped into the Island as the Dutch persecuted the Church of Sri Lanka for 30 endless years.
7. He hid his Mass kit under his loin cloth and wore a Rosary around his neck. He built the first church and dedicated it to Our Blessed Mother
8. He worked alone in Sri Lanka for 10 years and gave life to the persecuted Church. The next 14 years he was accompanied by Goan priests.
9. He baptized, catechized and built 300 Chapels, churches, hospitals and especially built homes for the old, sick and needy next to the Churches.
10. He always kept a sack of rice to be distributed after Mass to the poor. And that sack was never empty! He loved the poor!
11. He established lay leaders, catechists, small human communities, inculturation before Vatican II. A man who thought ahead of his times.
12. Disguised as a baker, washer man, coolie, servant, businessman, porter, fisherwoman he served the hidden church of Sr. Lanka for fear of being caught by the Dutch. He was a master of disguise.
13. He issued a command over snakes that they would never bite a priest. Till date, a snake in Sri Lanka has bitten no priest.
14. When the drought ravaged the land, he was requested by the Buddhist king to pray for rain. He performed the Miracle of the rain.
15. During the epidemic of small pox, he selflessly served as a nurse, gravedigger, cook, doctor and buried 10 to 12 bodies per day.
16. He had nothing, no money, always depended on God. He had nothing to owe! He wore only one cassock, which was patched and stitched all over. He always slept on a mat on the floor.
17. God blessed him with 30 years of priesthood, 24 fruitful years in the Sri Lankan vineyard. He walked bare foot throughout his life nearly for 60 years.
18. He died in an odour of sanctity on 16th January 1711, on the day and time he had foretold. Before dying he spoke and advised those gathered around him in Sinhala. "Hardly will you be able to do at the time of death what you have done during your life."
19. He sent the Crucifix given to him by the Pope to Goa, now preserved in the Oratory Room of St. Joseph Vaz. The only relic in India is the piece of mantle of St. Joseph Vaz which is in the Church of Sancoale.
20. The Oratory room (over 400 years old) is being visited by thousands of devotees from all over the world. The jackfruit tree that he played under, climbed down from the window, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in Cortalim church quietly during the nights still stands witness to the Holy Son of Goa.



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

## Liturgy - Feast of St. John Bosco

SR. ELIZABETH COELHO  
Headmistress,  
Auxilium Benaulim, Goa



**INTRODUCTION:** (after the invitatory): He was a dreamer and it looked as if his brothers were not very much impressed. So when he related his dream, his stepbrother told him that he would become a robber and a thief; his brother Joseph thought he would become a shepherd and his grandmother wisely told him not to pay attention to dreams. His mother, however, saw much promise in the dream and thought he would become a priest.



**Notice board by Sr. Cristine Ferreira - SJTC, Lonavla**

And DB became all – he was a robber – he robbed the hearts of the young and placed them at the feet of Jesus and eventually saved their souls. He was a shepherd to the young and took good care of his youngsters, seeing to their material, physical and spiritual needs. He did not pay attention to his dreams, but they came and served as directions to help him to raise up an institution of monumental heights and then he was a priest, always a priest, a different priest and a priest with a difference. Dear sisters, the Church, who has titled St. John Bosco as “father and teacher of the young” joins us today in celebrating the feast of our father and founder. We have every reason to raise our heads high for having such a dynamic and versatile saint as our Founder. Let us ask him to help us imitate his maxim – give me souls and take away the rest – and do everything possible to save souls.

**PSALM:** Don Bosco’s “give me souls” was a clear call to save the souls of the young. He thirsted to do everything in his capacity to bring the

young out from their misery into a place or situation where it would be possible to redeem them. As we sing this psalm let us pray for a genuine thirst for God and a deep love for his people especially for the young.

**CANTICLE:** God’s creation is a constant manifestation of his love for humankind. Every flower that blooms, every egg that hatches to bring new birth, every flowing stream of water is a sign that God has not lost his trust in us. Let us, like our founder, believe in God’s love for us manifested through his creation.

**PSALM:** A child in need – and a new idea came to Don Bosco – he began his oratory. Another child abandoned – a new idea came to Don Bosco – he began his boarding. Another child forsaken - DB had a new idea – he began a new congregation. We all crave for newness and it is because of the new ideas of some persons that change happens. Don Bosco’s new ideas led to making saints of the youngsters. Let us join our student-saints and sing this psalm together.

**EVENING PRAYER:** Father and Friend means DB, lover of youth means DB, a shoe maker, a carpenter, an engineer.... means Don Bosco. The world knows him as a master of many trades. How does the world know us? It is not enough to have a saint as our Father and Founder. We need to make saints of ourselves and our youngsters. It is easy if we can forget self and concentrate on our wards and their interests. Let us not take pride in calling ourselves the followers of DB, but let us allow others to recognize us as such, because of our deep love for the young. Let us pray for this grace as we pray our Evening prayer.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****Don Bosco says...**

- "Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved... you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."
- "The school was not the end; it was rather the instrumental means for improving the way of life."
- If one is to do good, he must have a little courage, be ready for sacrifice, deal affably with all and never slight anybody. By following this method I have always had significant success, in fact, marvelous success."

Particularly to youth he would say...

- "Act today in such a way that you need not blush tomorrow."
  - "Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow."
  - "Let us strive to fare well in this life and in the next."
  - "Be slow to pass judgment."
  - "Do you want your companions to respect you? Always think well of everyone, and be ready to help others. Do this and you will be happy."
- "Run, jump, have all the fun you want at the right time, but, for heaven's sake, do not commit sin!" (from St. Philip Neri)
- "Servite Domino in laetitia!" (Serve the Lord joyfully!)
  - "Enjoy yourself as much as you like - if only you keep from sin."
  - "We do not go to Holy Communion because we are good; we go to become good."
  - "Do not try to excuse your faults; try to correct them."
  - "The power of evil men lives on the cowardice of the good."

**Special event at the PCI****F.M.A PCI YOUTH MINISTRY MEET!**

An enthusiastic group of participants from all over India arrived at Guwahati, Provincial House for the F.M.A. P.C.I. Youth Ministry Meeting, on 25th September 2017, and were warmly welcomed by the Provincial Community. All the participants along with Sr. Runita Borja FMA, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry and Sr. Lolia, Youth Co-ordinator from Rome proceeded to St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Guwahati for the inaugural ceremony. The sisters, teachers and the students of St. Mary's Higher Secondary School were all smiles, as they greeted us with their traditional costumes. A beautiful and amazing performance of band by the children of Maligoan made the spirit of every participant vibrant and passionate. It was followed by a grand inaugural ceremony in the school Auditorium. The Celestial Lamp signifying the presence of God was lit by Rev. Sr. Runita Borja, and the representatives of various sectors. Every participant was honoured with a traditional kamuja.

The cultural celebration of colourful dances, a thought provoking skit and melodious songs was a feast to the eye. It was followed by a group discussion on a relevant topic "the dream of the F.M.A for young people" by the sisters and the



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND

## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

expectation of the students from the Salesian Sisters by a group of young hostelites. There was good sharing and openness on the part of the sisters and the young that gave a good start to our sessions.

The Prayer moments, the Eucharistic celebrations all centred round the theme of the Emmaus journey, were creatively animated by all the Provinces. The main celebrants beginning with His Grace Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil sdb, Emeritus Archbishop, Rev. Fr. V.M Thomas SDB, the Provincial of Guwahati, Rev. Fr. Stephen Mavely SDB, Vice Chancellor Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati and Rev. Fr. Melvil SJ, Fr. Johnson SDB, Director DBI, gave the tone for each day and to crown it all we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of consecrated life of our dear Sr. Runita Borja and Sr. Lolia. Every day was enriching with inspiring sessions by Sr. Runita Borja encouraging us to dream, think and act. Thought provoking questions on our mission with the young were reflected upon, noted down and creatively and brightly presented on charts, according to each Province. The sharing of each other every evening enriched us. We had much to learn from each other. The 'Goodnight'

message by the provincials presented through videos, gave us a glimpse of the mission carried out in favour of the poor and needy youth in all our provinces.

A day's outing was the icing on the cake. Everyone enjoyed the Cultural Experience, the visit to Don Bosco University followed by a delicious dinner and high tea, ending with our own house at St. Mary's Malegaon where the young candidates entertained us with an array of spectacular tribal dances after which we had a sumptuous dinner. It was indeed a memorable day.

On the final day we were intent on putting down concrete proposals to be carried out in each of our Provinces with ever greater dedication and commitment.

The meeting concluded with a Prayer moment thanking God and all those who organized and executed the F.M.A. P.C.I. Youth Ministry Meeting with such precision and care. After dinner an entertainment programme was ingeniously staged to express our thanks to all, especially the General Councillor for Youth Ministry Sr. Runita Borja FMA and Sr. Lolia, the PCI President and the host Province of Guwahati.

## Particular happenings in our Province

### VISIT OF THE RECTOR MAJOR TO THE SHRINE OF DON BOSCO'S MADONNA, MATUNGA

The iconic Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, which was built in 1957 by the great visionary, Father Aurelius Maschio, marked its red-letter day, the Diamond Jubilee of the Shrine on November 12, 2017. The Rector Major presided over the festive Jubilee Eucharistic celebration on the Shrine grounds at 5.30 pm. A group of young girls from Auxilium Convent High School, Wadala, performed a Bharatnatyam prayer dance that added to the celebratory fervour.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

A group of little flower girls then filled the path of the Rector Major with colourful petals as he and the con-celebrants, the General Councillor Fr. Maria Kanaga, the Rector Major's secretary Fr. Horacio Lopez, the Provincial of Mumbai Fr. Godfrey D'Souza, and Rector of the Shrine Fr. Edwin D'Souza, ascended to the main altar. The Rector Major addressed the gathering in Italian and his words were translated into English by Father Kanaga.

"It's a real joy to meet all of you in Mumbai for the first time. In the name of Jesus I want to thank all of you for having come here this evening. A loving embrace to those who are very close to us Salesians, the young people, the boys and the girls. This wonderful evening all of us are gathered here to thank God for the last 60 years," he said.

"In Turin, Don Bosco did all that he could and constructed the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians and there is written on top, 'This is my house from here my glory shall go forth.' Today, Our Lady of Don Bosco's Madonna reaches out to so many people around the world. I was able to see the Shrine only this afternoon. It is so beautiful to see and the thought struck me in the last 60 years how many people came to rest under the mantle of Our Lady, how many married people came to dedicate their life to Our Lady and how many men and women religious came to pray to Our Lady for protection over their consecrated life," he said.

With the Diamond Jubilee of Her Shrine, Don Bosco's Madonna brought together the young, the old, the laity, the religious - altogether at the banquet of the Lord, and they could all truly say, 'Don Bosco was among us!'

**VISIT OF OUR RECTOR MAJOR TO THE SALESIAN FAMILY**

It was a grace-filled occasion for the Council members of the Salesian Family to meet with the Rector Major Don Angel Fernandez Arttime on 12th November 2017 in Don Bosco, Matunga. He was accompanied by his Secretary Fr. Horacio Lopez and the South-East Asia Regional Superior Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga. We welcomed him singing joyfully the Salesian hymn, 'Raise your voices...'

The Rector Major told us that ours is probably the biggest religious family with 31 branches. He expressed his happiness to meet us as a family of FMA, SDB, SMI, Co-operators, Past Pupils and ADMA, and thanked us for being a part of it. He added, "We Salesians never feel alone with you around. You lay people are doing a wonderful job in reaching out to so many families whom we cannot reach. We need to bear witness to our beliefs and values, and share with others all the good things that we learn as part of the Salesian Family. Be a lively and dynamic family. Join me now in praying the Hail Mary because we know how much Don Bosco believed in the powerful intercession of Mother Mary".

**GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

**Sr. Veronica  
Fernandes**

It was a day of festivities and joy, a day when our dear and Rev.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Sr. Veronica Fernandes celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her vowed life. The Morning Prayer was well animated. The climax was when Sr. Veronica burst forth with tears of joy, her heart throbbing with gratitude and love for all the wonders God has worked in her fifty years of religious life, moving the hearts of all present.

The solemn Holy Mass was the peak of the celebrations when accompanied by her dear ones, the jubilant carrying lamps made her way to the altar offering up her life to glow and shine. She fervently renewed her 'yes' to God with love and unction. Rev. Sr. Caroline Fernandes, who had accompanied her 53 years ago to Katpadi crowned the jubilant.

The choir led by Rev. Sr. Aruna Castelino resounded God's praises filling the hearts with music and fervor.

The lively march to the hall was a hilarious time when our celebrity with her only brother, sisters and relations enjoyed as her feet tapped to the rhythm of the music. The presence of the past pupils was an added joy.

Sr. Veronica was also felicitated in the parish where she thanked Fr. Johnny Nigrel, the parish priest and the parishioners for their love and support.

**Sr. Stella Ribeiro**

On 17 August 2017 the Sisters and the parishioners gathered around Sr. Stella to celebrate God's affection and fidelity towards her. They celebrated her 50 years of Religious life and it was indeed a day of joy and thanksgiving. Sr. Catherine Pereira and Sr. Joanna Lobo prepared every detail. The sisters from Nashik and Ahmednagar, the Salesian priests from Ahmednagar and Khedgaon were present and Fr. Vishwas Pereira was the main celebrant for the occasion. There were a good number of parishioners as the celebration was in the parish church. The Mass was meaningful; the novices did the entrance dance and the parishioners saw to the singing. The people then felicitated Sr. Stella and appreciated her for her contribution in the parish. They thanked her for living an exemplary life. Sr. Stella thanked everyone and on behalf of the family her sister, Matilda Ribeiro spoke about the goodness of Sr. Stella.

**Sr. Margaret Annasamy**

On Wednesday 11th October 2017, the FMA communities of Nashik, along with the neighbouring religious communities comprising of the SDB, the Capuchins and the Ursulines, as well as the some parishioners, gathered around our dear Sr. Margaret Annasamy, to celebrate 50 years of God's steadfast love in her life.

The celebrations began with a solemn high Mass at 6:00pm in the SHTC Hall that was

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

tastefully decorated with ferns and golden chrysanthemums. The Eucharist began with a graceful dance by our Boarders, with apt introduction and entrance procession to the altar.

The main celebrant Fr. Joaquim D'Souza, presented religious life as a covenantal relationship unfolding in an adventurous love-story between God and the beloved. At the renewal of the vows, Sr. Florie D'Mello presented Sr. Margaret with a frame of Don Bosco's Madonna who had accompanied her and taken her place in her own family of origin. The frame was to be a 'thanksgiving memento' offered in the name of the Congregation to the family of Sr. Margaret.

The Mass was followed by felicitations to the Golden Jubilarian. The hostellers and Novices sang a melodious song of gratitude with jubilee blessing. The short and sweet cultural show was put-up by the boarders and hostellers.

The raising of the toast for this golden occasion was done by Fr. Ashley Miranda who brought into focus the meritorious life of Sr. Margaret and her 50 years of Joyful and Loving Fidelity in God and to the mission of the Congregation. It was also an occasion to celebrate her 75 years of life and the immense good done by her in different mission stations, in Madras as well as in the Mumbai province, pioneering a number of communities with great dedication and spirit of sacrifice.

The vote of thanks concluded the jubilee felicitations and the event came to a happy conclusion with fraternal table fellowship.

## **AYM YOUTH FEST IN THE FOUR REGIONS**

### **Gujarat**

Family: Where life begins and love never ends!



The 11th of November 2017 was a joyous day for the FMA region of Gujarat as the three Communities – Auxilium Baroda, Pushpanjali Dakor and Jag Prakash Pansora celebrated the AYM fest 2017 at Jag Prakash Kanya Chatralay, Pansora. 148 girls, Sisters, teachers and volunteers joyfully participated in it. We began our programme with the registration of the participants, followed by ice-breakers which were conducted by Sr. Urvashi Macwana. The inaugural programme began at 4:30 p.m. Rev. Thomas Macwan, Archbishop of Gandhinagar Diocese, was the chief guest for the day. He enlightened the girls with his golden words, laying stress and importance on family life. Thereafter the girls participated in sessions on family and relationships, conducted by Mr. Francis and Fr. Jagdish Macwan. These sessions made them aware of the joys of family life as well as its demands. The girls promised to be disciplined children at home and at school and to help their parents build up love and unity in the family. They then participated in various games, actions songs, the AYM theme song, playlets on themes, the garba dance and a cultural programme performed by each house. The AYM Youth Fest concluded with the prize distribution.

### **Maharashtra**

The campus of Laura Vicuna Niwas, Ahmednagar, resounded with the lively vibrations of around 350 youngsters from the Maharashtra region, invited to participate in the annual Auxilium Youth Fest '17 (AYM).

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****Goa**

The Youth Fest for the Goa region began on a joyful note at 4.30 pm on the 18th of December as the youngsters along with their sister representative stepped in Auxilium

This event was packed with myriads of activities, beginning with a visit to the Tank Museum in that city, which is the only one in Asia.

The dignitaries were solemnly escorted to the venue and the Youth Fest was declared open by Fr. Vishwas Pereira SDB. It was a grand sight to behold the individual banners of our Auxilium presences in the region. The entire programme revolved around the theme "Family: Where Life begins and Love never ends". The youth delighted in the sessions, presentations of skits, AYM theme song and most of all the "Taize prayer" which included a time of reconciliation as well.

The next day the youngsters began with aerobics which rejuvenated their spirits. The day's schedule included animated sessions, games, action songs, claps and the like. The Eucharist was the apex of the day which gave a spiritual slant to the fun-filled event. Each and every participant resolved to love, respect and spend quality time with their family, building relationships. They walked home very content with a gift - a pouch with the theme printed on it.

A million thanks to Sr. Meena D'Silva, Sr. Theresa Plathara, the Sisters of Ahmednagar community and the animators, volunteers and the support staff for their wholehearted collaboration.



Caranzalem. The Chief Guest, Mrs. Gloria Menezes our very own Salesian cooperator, after declaring the Youth Fest open, spoke to the students about the importance of being a 'Light', first in their family and then in the place they study and work. Sr. Caroline D'Souza, the animator of the house warmly welcomed all - participants, sisters and volunteers to a wonderful stay and memorable experience.

Ice-breakers helped them get to know each other and make new friends. They also decided to give their best to the group they now belonged to, for the next two days. The students of Caranzalem enthusiastically danced to the tune of the AYM Anthem as all joined in. Everybody participated with complete attention and interest in the first session of the day which was on the 'Family'. The various Group discussions held at different moments during the Youth Fest, helped each of them to express themselves and be enriched by the others too.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

They enjoyed the games conducted for them by the sisters. The 'Dance Session' during the recreation was a moment that they enjoyed the most.

It was wonderful to see them at prayer during the Taize Prayer, responding to the hymns and mantras.

The next day began with Morning Prayer in groups which was truly a moment of getting in touch with God and self. After 'Yoga', led by the Physical Education teacher all the participants of the Youth fest joined the school for the Flag Hoisting ceremony on the occasion of Goa Liberation Day. We then returned to the hall for the next session on 'Relationship and Communication'. Fr. Joe Fernandes celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the youngsters stressing on the love of God for Youngsters. They then presented short skits prepared by them on different family values.

After an appetizing lunch we had the Action Plan by the different houses and the group evaluation. Prize distribution followed which was a moment all looked forward to. The Solemn conclusion saw each one pledging to be a 'Messenger of PEACE'. Happy to receive a pouch as a remembrance of the Fest that they enjoyed to the full, they departed for their respective places, carrying joyful memories of 24 hours spent in fun and learning.

**Karnataka**

**FAMILY ... WHERE LIFE BEGINS AND LOVE NEVER ENDS.** This was the theme of the Youth Fest 2017 held at Shirva for the Karnataka region comprising the houses of Nandgad, Kasarkod, Kalathur, Madanthyar and Shirva. 82 youngsters participated in the youth fest, inclusive of both girls and boys. The Youth fest began with the inaugural programme animated by Sr. Sajan Gaikwad along with the Shirva girls. Mr. Julian



Rodrigues, President of the Lions Club of Shirva was the Chief Guest for the Inaugural function.

The participants were then divided into groups through the ice breakers conducted by Sr. Reshma Rosario and the Sisters. The main session was animated by Fr. Steven Luis OFM and the Taize prayer was conducted by Mr. Derrick Mascarenhas, ex- President of ICYM- Udupi Diocese. The youngsters actively participated in the sessions.

The following morning a Yoga session was creatively conducted by Sr. Lavita Braganza and it was followed by prayer and meditation. Mrs. Maria spoke about relationships and communication. The youth groups presented a skit and a mime-show on the value of the Family. This was later followed by the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Kiran Nazareth SDB. He highlighted the importance of values and talents to be placed at the service of the family and society, giving particular attention to love and service. During the afternoon session, Sr. Mary Lobo had a chart display on the theme of the family which was prepared by the various groups. Sr. Teresa D'Souza enthusiastically taught some action- songs to the participants. The actions plan was drawn up by the schools and hostels and each representative shared their experiences.

Sr. Hilda Mascarenhas, the animator of the Shirva community thanked everyone and distributed prizes to the winners. Miss Sushmita thanked the

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

guests and especially Sr. Hilda Mascarenhas and the community for hosting this programme; and finally the sisters, animators, the teachers and the support staff who had come for the programme. It was truly an enriching experience for all the students who were part of AYM Youth Fest 2017.

**FAITH FEST '17*****Maharashtra***

On the 9th of December 2017 about 90 youngsters from different regions of the Mumbai Province gathered together at Maria Vihar, Nasik to enrich their experience in the faith. The faith celebration began with an inauguration ceremony at 5:30pm.



The girls of Maria Vihar presented a prayer dance to help the participants enter into a moment of prayer. Sr. Salome D'Souza, the Novice Mistress declared the Faith Fest open through a ceremony consisted of dwelling on faith which is about being faithful, available, indebted, together and holy. In his speech Fr. Ashley Miranda the Chief Guest mentioned on how faith is a significant element of our lives and that faith and action go hand in hand. In her welcome note Sr. Philomena D'Souza, the animator of Maria Vihar, Nashik emphasized on how Nashik is a centre of faith for many people and therefore for us gathered too is now an experience of strengthening our faith.

The organizers were then introduced by Sr. Nilima Rodrigues, the chief coordinator, followed by some ice-breakers for the youngsters to make new friends. Thereafter the youngsters were divided into 8 different groups and reflected on the aspect of faith in their lives and what God means to them. To energize them once again a few biblical games were organized. Seeking the guidance of our Blessed Mother they then prayed the Holy Rosary and contemplated on the Joyful Mysteries.

Later on supper was served and we had some time for recreation to mingle with others. The day ended with a praise and worship adoration service in which the youngsters offered their weaknesses and failures before the Lord. Sticking to the Salesian tradition Fr. Jacob gave a goodnight asking youngsters to be Christ bearers in their respective setups.

The next day began with a simple morning prayer together after which the youngsters had a meditation in their respective groups centered on the gospel passage of Jesus being lost in the temple. Thereafter they were served breakfast and given time for recreation. The later session was intense in nature. The youngsters were given personal time to reflect on life and relationships especially in the family. This meaningful journey continued with the sacrament of reconciliation wherein the youngsters spend some quality time with themselves in silence. A meaningful Eucharist was then celebrated by Fr. Kenneth Pereira who helped the participants to involve themselves as he explained the different parts of the mass and their significance.

In the afternoon, lunch was served and the youngsters spent some time together in sharing. After lunch a short session was organized by the brothers with the theme 'You too can be a saint'. The session focused on how holiness is a matter opening ones heart to God. After the session the participants spent some time sharing their

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

experiences. The last input was given by Fr. Robert Pen who spoke on motivating oneself as a crucial element of the life of youth. The faith celebration ended with a closing ceremony and prize distribution. The youngsters were grateful for the experience and expressed their sentiments personally to those who contributed to a process of growth in their lives.

**Goa**

The Faith Fest for the Goa region on the theme "We are family" was held on the 3 - 4 November 2017 at Auxilium Convent, Benaulim. We warmly welcomed the 66 youngsters who came along accompanied by the sister animator from the houses of Caranzalem, Sulcorna, Velim, Oros and Benaulim. After the registration, words of welcome by the Superior Sr. Agatha Dias, tea and a short ice breaker, we declared open the Faith Fest with a short prayer moment and the release of balloons. We then had a wonderful session of praise and worship, sharing of testimonies and the sharing of the Word of God by a team of Young Crusaders. This helped the youngsters to discover and taste the love of God. Supper was shared together as a family after which the group prayed a candle light Rosary. All the meals for the occasion were prepared by the Salesian Cooperators of the Benaulim unit. At night we viewed the film 'The Ultimate Gift'.

The next morning we began with the Lectio Divina conducted in groups. After breakfast,

the group had a session on 'Discover your gifts'- a self reflective session during which they reflected on the gift of Family, Friendship, Time, Dreams and Gratitude. The participants then had the opportunity to make their confession while Adoration was going on. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist was the culmination of the day.

After a delicious lunch and interesting Bible games, they had a session on "You too can be a saint" by Sr. Elizabeth Coelho. The Faith Fest concluded with a short evaluation of the event and the prize distribution ceremony.

**Karnataka**

The youth faith fest with its theme empowerment and transformation for the joy of true giving, was well planned and organized by Sr. Rita Fernandes and the Sisters of Mazzarello Kendra, Kasarkod, for the youth of the Karnataka region on 4 - 5 of November 2017. On 4th morning Saturday, we were happy to welcome the youngsters coming from different parishes, colleges, institutions, working youth and parish associations. A name tag with a cheery bow helped the participants to get connected to one another among the 168 members. Soon after some refreshment, they got into six groups of 20-25 members, using a creative method and exchanged greetings, getting further acquainted with one another.

The programme initiated with the lighting of the lamp, imploring God's blessing while the youngsters sang an action song- "Walking in the Light of the Lord". The animators were then introduced to the youngsters after which there

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

followed the first session entitled "Ignite your Faith". This key note session given by Rev. Fr. Richard Rodrigues, our Parish Priest, gave a good start to the programme. Bible games, action songs and the Biblical housie helped the entire group to get effectively involved while enjoying themselves and getting to know the scripture a little better. Sr. Diana Rodrigues fma, the youth animator of the FMA Bangalore Province then conducted a session on "Relating with God, Myself and neighbor" in a very interesting way. After planning the camp-fire and enjoying the tea break the third session on "Family as the domestic Church" was thoroughly dealt with by Fr. Richard Rodrigues, making it very relevant and applicable to daily living through his role plays and magical ways. During his session on Anger Management, the video-clip gripped their attention. It reached its climax during the role-play when one of the participants spontaneously ran to help out while all the others remained filled with emotion, stunned & spell bound. The Eucharistic Celebration and the Holy Hour adoration service facilitated deep interiority, giving the youngsters the opportunity of spending soul-searching moments that would lead them to be reconciled with God and one another.

The morning meditation conducted on the sands of the Arabian Sea shore was an unforgettable experience for the youngsters for days to come. It was animated by Fr. Milton Fernandes sdb. His dynamic sessions on Empowerment for the modern youth for an inner transformation did create a sense of inner strength and an attitudinal change in the youngsters. The camp fire at night gave all the participants an outlet to display their talents in acting and dancing. The DJ music added extra life and zest to them and they were ready to spend the whole night around the camp fire. They highly appreciated the delicious meals served generously and on time. During the final evaluation all the youngsters expressed their thanks for giving them such a grand opportunity to experience something great for life and they

requested the organizers to have such sessions at least twice a year. The youth Fest concluded with thanking every one and exhorting them to live the values learned during the Faith fest and to keep alive the memory of these days. The community had worked hard and spent some anxious moments as well, but we felt an inner joy and prayed for good and holy vocations from this group for the Salesian family which is little known in this diocese.

**GROMO**

"The real way to happiness is by giving out happiness to others. Try and leave the world a little better than we found it," is the life-purpose & scouting mission for Boscoree which will be held in Nashik 2018 and Gromo was like a mini Boscoree in preparation to that National event.

24 Auxilian Guides "Kalpana Chavala" troop students of 8th and 9th along with Tr. Fatima Fernandes, Sr. Teresa John and Sr. Rexela Kharjia carried their equipment and travelled to Lonavla on 23rd by Pragati Express. The GROMO would be from 24th October to 29th October 2017.

All along the journey there was excitement as they were going for the first time.

All was well on the day they reached but the hectic time table began on 24th October. The girls participated in every event giving of their best.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

The Theme for the event was "Health, Harmony, Holiness" (Health =Love of self, Harmony= Love of neighbor, Holiness= Love of God). The programme was organised in such a way that each day there was a theme. The first dedicated to Health, the next two days for Harmony and Holiness.

There were nearly eight hundred scouts and guides, along with their respective scout masters and guide captains, were present for this event. Participants from 23 Salesian fathers and sisters' schools, 23 scout troops and 16 guide troops made their way to the campsite for the mega-scouting event.

In great reverence to the workers in the vineyard of Lonavla, the sub camps were named in the honour of the Salesian fathers and sisters, namely Father Bianchi, Father Alessi, Father Casarotti and Sisters Camilla Tagliabue, Mary Vaz and Walentyzna Czermich, who laboured on the soil.

Nidhi Passi, a past pupil from Auxilium Convent, also a zumba professional injected new vigour at noon by showcasing her skills. An elaborate physical display, with participants being divided into single and mixed groups, followed. A blend of pyramids, fire-ring jumps, yoga, lezim and acrobatics made the evening solemn.

In line with the belief that 'Everything we learn in life is either a blessing or a lesson', the scouts and guides learnt to prepare key chains, bracelets and flower baskets - in groups- and in true familial spirit were assisted by the Salesian brothers and FMA postulants.

We are proud to say that we participated in all the competitions held and bagged 6 Gold and 4 Silver for the School. Needless to say, it was a good exposure for our Guides and they look forward eagerly for the forthcoming mega event 'The Boscoree 2018'.

**SEMINAR FOR SENIOR SISTERS**

What a joy! What a grace! What a rare, happy feeling to participate in this GRACE -filled moment to learn how to age gracefully. We began this awesome seminar on the 20th of November 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Training Centre, Lonavla.

Fr. Dudley Mendonca S.J. led us through the day, making us aware of the 'need to heal ourselves' and the 'value of healing our psychological woundedness!'



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Fr. Dudley invited us to construct our Family Genogram. Through this exercise our Dad...our Mum...our siblings take centre stage!! Each of them has influenced our life, our way of being! Wow! We invite you too, to join us and do likewise!! This exercise will help you understand why you are the way you are! He then went even deeper and called us to 'HEAL OUR FAMILY TREE!!' When we heal OUR FAMILY TREE we too will be healed!!

*TRUST IS THE SALT OF LOVE*

On the 21st November 2017, the second day of the seminar on 'Ageing Gracefully', the participants numbering 23, ventured into the world of affect-fact association under the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Dudley Mendonca sj.

He further stated: 'AGING is a gift for having lived a balanced life!' You may ask: What is the love/heart of healing? Yes, we need to heal ourselves of our own anxiety! What are the unhealthy ways that emerge because of my anxiety!

Once I have dealt with my anxiety, then I'll be more genteel, gentle with others!

What's causing so much sickness and stress? Stress is nothing but a manifestation of anxiety.

Heal anxiety and your stress will lower!

As women, we are meant to be 'feeling persons'. As I read this on blog can I get in touch with my feelings?

The psycho-spiritual blend needs to happen and this happens beautifully in God's Good time! Another inspirational session was: UNDERSTANDING YOUR FAMILY through the GENOGRAM or FAMILY TREE.

This session exposed the Psychic energy that can help heal wounds one was carrying from childhood, wounds mirroring parental traits. It is a process that leads us back to our family tree in order to discover characteristics inherited from our parents and ancestors. This process of cleansing our past helps in awakening our Psycho-spirituality, thus bringing about a rendezvous with one's inner self and the God within. It is a journey worth making to enrich the qualitative fabric of one's life in order to make life worth living for ourselves and others.

Well, on the morning of the third day, the sun shone brightly on the good and the bad in Lonavla! We, the grown-ups too warmed up, eager to know more about the adventure of life, thanks to Fr. Dudley Mendonca SJ.

An interesting and enlightening session was:

"A Compassionate Heart enables healing of the affective sequence in Self and Others". Another session was: "The importance of experiencing affects in the body, which leads to re-learning or change in maladaptive & dysfunctional speech and behaviour patterns".

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

We moved on gradually from the "Complex of Fact and Affect to N.C.D. (Naming, Claiming, Draining) Procedure – I would say, the core of the Seminar - which will lead us to small miracles, thus building up one's spirituality, 'letting go' of the hurts and fears and 'letting God' emerge through us, thereby growing in health and faith.

And the last evening came with a bonus: "Tuesdays with Morrie" – a must-view film, which highlighted many of the techniques we had learnt in the Seminar, thus teaching us essential lessons of life.

**ANIMATION TO ANIMATE COMMUNITY**

The 'Leadership Training' held in SJTC Lonavla dated 26th -29th November 2017 included 34 participants. Fr. Dudley Mendonca SJ animated the 4 days training. The participants were the animators of the various communities and Provincial Team. The day was well spaced out with input sessions and time for reflection. The topics dealt by Fr. Dudley were gradual in taking us back to the family Genogram. The N.C.D. Procedure ie. NAMING, CLAIMING, DRAINING was explained in order to heal ourselves from our deep seated wounds. The Psycho-spiritual Spectrum created lot of awareness in depth to help us be life giving animators. We were taught to distinguish our affects, feelings and

emotions which lead to the various moods and behavioral patterns. Trust is the Corner Stone of the Community and therefore techniques were imparted to develop trust at personal and community level. The qualities of Trust that is Openness, Sharing and Acceptance were explained to us well and simplified. The Listening skill too was strengthened with practical demo in groups of 3 ie speaker, listener and observer. Few tips were also provided to help us be aware of the causes of our failure in being effective leaders. Later on 13 Hints on Leadership were elaborated. The various activities to know oneself as Autocratic, Democratic and Laissez-faire leaders helped us to understand and improve our leadership role. The climax of the entire training was 'How I Act in Conflicts'. The 35 listed proverbs answered individually were a help to evaluate our own style of managing conflicts in our communities. This training has helped us to get in touch with our deeper selves and understand our own behaviour. It has also challenged us to change what is not helpful. The concluding topic 'Community For Mission' gave us an insight to "Get up and walk" Lk 5:23.

The seminar was indeed an apt need for the animators therefore we thank the provincial and her team for organizing it. We also extend our thanks to the hosting communities of Lonavla.

**SEMINAR ON AMORIS LAETITIA**

We 5 sisters Lucy Paes, Maria Shirsath, Sunita Moteghar, Savita Parkhe and Priya Tauro were really fortunate to participate in the National Symposium organized by the CCBI Commissions for Family and Doctrine and Theology, CBCI office of Justice, Peace and development, FIAMC Biomedical Ethics Centre and Diocesan Human Life Committee, Mumbai at St. Pius X

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

College, Goregaon from Friday October 13th to October 15, 2017. Delegates from 41 dioceses were present for the same. The symposium was

organized to have a deeper understanding of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, to reflect and to formulate a pastoral response to the call for strengthening, enriching and supporting families to help them find joy in living the ideal concept of Christian marriage. The proposals of Pope Francis were highlighted. There were eminent speakers who covered a wide range of topics on marriage and family life from the biblical, theological, spiritual, moral, canonical, cultural, human and pastoral perspectives. Special attention was paid to inter-religious marriages, families with a lot of problems etc. all of us were deeply touched by the sharing of the different testimonies of the married couples as they shared the very life experiences with us. It was a thrilling experience for all of us. We are grateful for the opportunity given us by our Provincial and our Animators.

## Exceptional activities in our communities

---

### CRI MEET FOR YOUNG RELIGIOUS IN GOA



On 19 November 2017, a CRI Meet for junior religious women and men was held at Mary Immaculate School Panjim.

The CRI President Fr. Paul Alvares asked Sr. Agatha Dias if she could organise the one-day annual seminar for junior religious in Goa since

we FMA are good in dealing with the youngsters. We took up the challenge and organised the programme requesting Fr. Bernadino Almeida sdb to speak to the juniors on "The relevance of religious today". 87 junior sisters and brothers of different Congregations were present for the day of animation.

At 9.00am the Eucharist was con-celebrated by Fr. Paul Alvares and Fr. Bernadino Almeida SDB. Soon after the Eucharist we divided the young religious into different groups based on the symbols of animals in the Bible. As they got into groups, one member of each group had to come forward and share any two instances of that particular animal given to the group. After introducing themselves to one another in the group, they had the first session by Fr. Bernadino. After the tea break they were given few important questions to discuss in groups.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

The five of us of the Benaulim Community – Sr. Agatha Dias, Sr. Elizabeth Coelho, Sr. Teotonia Vaz, Sr. Rebecca Thomas and Sr. Shobhna Pereira then took over for the afternoon session. We did it in our own Salesian style beginning once again with an action song “I’m Alive, Alert, Awake, Enthusiastic”. They participated in the afternoon session of Biblical games – guessing the incidents of the Old and New Testament put up on the screen. Each group was alert to make sure they guessed right. The answers on the screen were written in jumbled words which they had to put right; they also had word search, puzzles, picture guesses etc. It was amusing to see them rush to give in their papers first since they had group points put up on the score board.

Sr. Elizabeth was at the microphone conducting the games, Sr. Teotonia was busy marking the score board while Sr. Rebecca and Sr. Shobhna distributed and collected the papers and finally checked them to mark them.

The evaluation of the day’s programme by the group was very positive and they appreciated all that was done to keep them enthusiastic and to increase their knowledge of Sacred Scripture.

The programme concluded with the distribution of prizes in our own original style – rosaries for those who won first place, finger rosaries for the group that stood second and key-chains for the third group.

We wound up the programme at 3.45 p.m. with the CRI President expressing thanks to us for the well organised day.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. SALU!**

90 years of life of our dear Fr. Salvador D’Souza, loving known as Fr. Salu! 16th November 2017 was a happy day for us FMA at Wadala as we celebrated the birthday of our confessor Fr. Salu . Sunshine or rainy weather, winter or summer ,



Fr. Salu is faithful to his task of celebrating the Eucharist for the Community at Wadala. Like Don Bosco, he cares for the spiritual growth of the Sisters.

Dear Fr. Salu, we are indeed privileged to know a faithful priest like you who guide us towards Salesian sanctity. May God bless you and keep you in good health now and always. Have a Happy birthday!

**MISSION EXPERIENCE OF THE POSTULANTS****WITH THOSE ON THE MARGINS**

As we continue celebrating this SPECIAL EVENT in the life of our Institute, we the Postulants of S.J.T.C. Lonavla got a wonderful opportunity to go to Anmol - Koparkhairane. Our Animator Sr. Cecilia Crasta accompanied us. It was truly providential that the dates for the mission experience beautifully coincided with that of the



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

140th anniversary! For the next nine days Anmol was to be our abode. Sr. Magdalene Sequeira, our new "mission co-ordinator" warmly welcomed us and briefed us on our adventure. It was a one-of-a-kind experience interacting with these kids and their parents on the peripheries. They were only too eager to learn and this is what enthused us to give them our very best! Soon we picked up the delicate ministry that our Sisters were involved in as well as those undertaken by Sahayini. Sr. Moksha Anthonappa created in us awareness that despite the number of projects undertaken by them, there is a lot more to be done. We enjoyed our stay at Anmol and as Don Bosco said: "For those who are happy, time flies"! Indeed time flew and it was time to move on to our next destination.

Within a few hours we reached Dadra and Nagar Haveli! Tucked away deep in the interior

of this mission place, among the hills and valleys decked with sal trees lies our home of love, in a small village Sindhoni. Life is very simple - eat, work, pray, sleep! The village folk are lovable, hardworking and generous. They are down-to-earth and to date uncontaminated. Farmers by profession, they work hard tilling Mother Earth and during off season, they engage themselves in other occupations. Their homes have only what is really essential. Staying at Sindhoni was once-in-a-lifetime experience. Srs. Esperance D'Sa and Lorina Bandy made us feel at home.

We cooked, cleaned-up, washed, filled water, took breaks, taught the kids from the neighborhood a few action songs, played a few games, distributed freebies, gave them a message and come back home for lunch. After lunch we made our way to other villages; here we interacted with the people and got to know their lifestyle. Each day was different from the other...meeting new people, having new experiences and surprises galore. It was an awesome experience. We magnified the Lord for His goodness to us and returned home to SJTC thanking God for this first-time experience in our youthful lives!

May the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello live on in and through us!

**FLIGHT OF FANTASY**

It was a red letter day for all the Anmol children of Uttan as they had an opportunity to go for



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

a Flight of Fantasy on 11th November 2017 through Sahayini Social Development Society. It was an initiative organized by Jet Airways in collaboration with Indian Oil. The day was full of surprises for the participants from four different NGOs. Sr. Moksha Antonappa and Sr. Savina Naik accompanied 23 girls from Anmol Uttan for this special programme. As the children entered the International Airport eagerly awaiting them was the Jet Airways Team. They welcomed each one with a T-shirt and a cap with the logo of Jet Airways. The children were speechlessly excited during the orientation to the International Airport and the airport procedures when one travels by Jet Airways. The Emcee organized a few games and introduced Jet Airways. Something more awaited us! First the famous film actress Shabana Azmi made a royal entry and boosted the spirits of the children. With her powerful words she encouraged boys and girls to respect and uplift each other. Then entered Toon characters from Nickelodeon and the Director of Golmaal, Rohit Shetty and the two actors Kunal and Shreyas Talpade. On seeing them, the children bubbled with joy and clicked many photos as the celebrities danced and gave their autographs. The BIG Surprise of the day was yet to come! The Joy of Flying!! Lunch packets were distributed to the children. Soon thereafter holding boarding passes was a dream come true!!! While entering the flight the children pinched each other to check it was really true. For forty minutes we were in flight to and from the southern part of Mumbai. Upon landing back we assembled at the arrival hall where they distributed more gifts. Anmol Girls presented beautiful handmade flowers expressing their sincere thanks to Ms. Neha, the Assistant Manager of Jet Airways, and her team. We truly felt very privileged to enjoy this rare opportunity, thanks to the efforts of Sr. Aruna Castelino, Mrs. Suzie D'Silva and Sahayini Social Development Society. It was a memorable experience of a lifetime!

**FAMILY DAY IN PALI HILL**

The Primary section of Auxilium-Wadala kept up Family Day on the 13th November 2017. The chief guest for the occasion was our past pupil and present Municipal Corporator, Mrs. Caron D' Mello. The teachers animated a meaningful prayer service. With the lighting of the lamp, the chief guest declared this event open and delivered an encouraging speech. The staff conducted some creative and lively games for the families. Spot prizes added to the fun and frolic.

On the 14th of November, the Secondary section celebrated the same event. Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, animator of Auxilium Wadala, was the Chief Guest for the programme. She addressed

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

the students and parents on the importance of family life. She exhorted them to live together as families and to make life beautiful for each child.

**80TH BIRTHDAY OF SR. CAROLINE FERNANDES**

It was indeed a privilege for us, the Sisters of Bombay to celebrate the 80th birthday of our dearest Sr. Caroline Fernandes. When life is lived for others, not counting the sacrifices and the hardships, we need to thank God for it.

In the evening of 23rd December, the Sisters, her dear ones and friends gathered at Pali Hill Bandra to celebrate the Eucharist. The Salesian Provincial of St. Francis Xavier Mumbai (INB)

Fr. Godfrey D'Souza meaningfully celebrated and highlighted the qualities of Sr. Caroline especially of her heart prints that she leaves behind. Sr. Teresa Joseph through a power point presentation brought forth the beauty of Sr. Caroline and the many roles she played during her religious life. Sr. Rita D'Souza interviewed Sr. Caroline especially of her dream for MM Mumbai, as she was our former Provincial.

After a chat with each other, creative games were organized and a sumptuous meal was served which was lovingly prepared by the Sisters.

The birthday had a touch of a family get together which is the hallmark of Sr. Caroline.

Dear Sr. Caroline we thank our God for giving us a beautiful person like you.

**50TH BIRTHDAY OF SR. LUCY RODRIGUES**

28th of September was a special day for all of us. Together with our animator, Sr. Lucy Rodrigues we thanked God for her 50 years of life. We praised the Almighty for the gift of life and for her loving service to the Sisters and the girls.

On 2nd of October our boarding children celebrated the birthday of our dear Sr. Lucy. They put up a programme which was interspersed with dances and songs. Above all the Sisters and the girls fervently prayed for health and happiness for our dear Sr. Lucy.



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

### PARENTS - PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



Education is a matter of character formation and not merely of achieving good grades and high marks. Parents' responsibility does not come to a full stop after securing admission for their child in a renowned school; rather they become collaborators and partners with the School administration in this great task of character formation.

On 28th November 2017, Auxilium High School Benaulim organised a formation session for the parents. Fr. Varghese Allengaden was the guest speaker of the day. Fr. Varghese enlightened the parents on how to be partners working hand in hand with the school in educating their children, encouraging them to do well, not just in academics but by adding values to their academics. Securing the highest rank or degree does not mean that one is educated. "Educate your child in values like that of honesty, patience and humility to accept the good and not so good events of life", he said. Parents were given tips on parenting like:

- Give quality time to the Child
- Trust your child with freedom but be alert
- Create a cordial atmosphere at home
- Respect each other in the family.

Two of our Std. XI students: Miss Leanne Fernandes and Miss Sheena Kumar who had attended the Leadership seminar at Indore, shared their experiences with the parents in the General assembly. At the end of the session, Fr. Varghese invited the parents to express their views or ask questions if they had any queries.

In today's context where even education has a commercial value, the management and staff of Auxilium Benaulim encourage the students to inculcate values that will make them responsible citizens of the country.

### VALUE EDUCATION DAY

#### *Family : A place where Values are Born*



In a world where values are regarded as old fashioned and outdated, where values have no place in this existing corrupt society, Auxilium Benaulim is still bubbling with the Kingdom values. From 20th- 25th of November 2017 we celebrated the "Value Education week". Each class, along with their respected religion teacher, was responsible for the morning assembly. The theme for the entire week was 'Family – A place where values are born'. This theme was well displayed on the backdrop. Every class assembly portrayed the importance of values. Sr. Elizabeth Coelho, the headmistress, appreciated the



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND

## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

teachers and the students for the well animated assemblies throughout the week.

Let us continue to move against the current by nurturing good values and spreading goodness around us.

### TEACHER'S TRAINING AT AUX-WADALA

#### *Touching Lives... Making a Difference*



The Don Bosco system focuses on the integral development of the child, where the child is indeed at the heart of the education. In this changing era, we have to keep pace with time and have deadlines to meet. The young minds to whom we cater, also face all these challenges in varied ways. But what about those students who face many other odds due to their special traits and many disabilities due to certain unveiled reasons both at home and in the school ambient?

Thus to impact them more proficiently and help us better understand the young growing teen, the Auxilium Wadala teachers, both the primary and secondary were privileged to receive training by the NGO – The Ummeed Child Development Centre (Parel). The Ummeed

team: Mrs. Shamin, Mrs Jovita Sen, Mrs.Trishna and Miss Sarah were the resource persons on the 5th of October and the 10th of October 2017. They efficiently dealt with topics such as Understanding Behaviours, Managing Difficult Behaviours and Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). They efficiently explained concepts and presented case studies of the various topics through the power point presentations, group discussions, activities and handouts. This will help us educators to change our perspective and thus approach our young teens with a compassionate and a listening heart enabling them to face the unknown future with courage and competence. After the sessions each teacher was presented with a certificate of participation. With words of thanks and appreciation the sessions concluded.

### MADANTHYAR CELEBRATES FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

On 1st October 2017 at 6:30 pm we celebrated the feast of the Guardian Angel. Sr. Mary Lobo animated a beautiful prayer moment. The hostel warden, Sr. Angeline Fernandes, cut the cake to serve the girls who later performed a skit on God's love and the Guardian Angel. With their melodious voices they also sang a beautiful song to the Guardian Angel. Sr. Angeline then presented the message for the day. To conclude the programme all the sisters and girls danced with much joy and happiness.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****GROMO IN PALI**

From 24-28 October 2017 the students of Auxilium Pali participated in Gromo 2017 held at Don Bosco Lonvala. Twenty-three Salesian schools participated. Gromo conducted different competitions such as march-past, cultural programmes, pyramids, peace march, adventure activities, inspection, etc. From our school 25 guides participated in this competition and our school won 7 certificates and 2 silver certificates.

Our students were trained by Sir Zahid, his team and guide captains Sr. Sunita Moteghar, Tr. Trupti Sawant and Tr. Hetal Joshi. Sr. Sunita was also appointed as a sub-camp chief for Gromo 2017.

**HAPPENINGS IN AHMEDNAGAR**

➤ On 12th November 2017 Sr. Moksha Antoappa, the Social Development Officer



of our Province, came to visit our centre and check on our documents and works of the NCP and Tuition classes. On the same day we had the celebration of Children's Day. She went through our documents and conducted a meeting for our staff. She gave some inputs on how we can become an effective and fruit bearing tree when we have the right intention and a good and solid motivation. The staff and students were happy to have her here.

- During the same week we had a training session for our SGH women on "Disaster management". It was centered on how to handle any situation, either in the kitchen or elsewhere; e.g. high BP, gas leakage, accidents, children's sickness etc. The team had come from Pune to demonstrate certain practical things. The women were happy to get this training. Our thanks go to Mr. Vikram Sargale who had arranged this training programme for the SHG women.
- The CSRD students conducted a survey in the village. They found that these poor farmers and their families were struggling as they were not cultivating their fields due to lack of water. With the help and support of our Nagersevek, we visited the spot and through his kind intervention we promised to help these poor people financially.
- On the 4 – 5th November 2017, we organized a recollection for the Salesian Cooperators of Savedi at Don Bosco, Lonvala. Eight members from our unit participated in it. Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB preached the retreat for them. It was a programme in preparation for the day when they would make the promise. The Salesians at Lonvala took good care of the participants.
- On 12th November 2017 we the sisters of Laura Vicuna Niwas celebrated Children's

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Day for our NCP and Tuition class children from the different villages. The programme commenced at 10.00 am with indoor games, followed by a cultural programme. Later we had a delicious meal, sponsored by a group of friends. The chief guest for the day was Sr. Moksha Antonappa, the province SDO. She takes great interest in our mission and provides our mission with all the support and help we need. The programme was well planned and the children enjoyed the day. Lots of games and prizes were distributed to the children. Around 130 children took part in the event. It was a joy to have our animator, Sr. Teresa Platha and Sr. Annette Nellianil,

present for the event. Sr. Moksha conducted a session on the rights of the children. She was happy to see many children present for the programme.

- On 14th November 2017 we had the visit of the NDF staff to our centre. Mr. Francis from Chennai Province, who works in NDF office, came to our centre to evaluate the functioning of the tuition classes of the NCP. He was taken around the villages to see the places and to meet the teachers who conduct the classes. He was very happy to see the documentation of the project as well as the children. He enlightened them on their rights and the need to safeguard them at all cost.

**HAPPENINGS IN AUX- LONAVLA*****Maval Taluka Science Exhibition***

A science exhibition was conducted for two days dated 29-30 November 2017 at Pragati Vidya Mandir, Indori Talegaon. Our children took part in the events, essay competition, elocution, quiz competition and a display of science projects. Many schools from Maval Taluka participated in these events.

Our student Faiza Bagban from VIII B bagged the first place for Elocution. It was a good learning experience for our children.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...*****Maths and Science Exhibition***

On 21st November a Maths and Science Exhibition was conducted in our school in the hall by Mr. Nekhede. There were many models displayed depicting properties of the theorems. Many working Models with crux were also displayed. The work of great mathematician was also displayed in the form of models.

There were many puzzles and twist teasers to solve. Mr. Arkhade and his assistant trained some of the students from classes 8th, 9th and 10th on 20.11.2017. On 21.11.2017 the exhibition was held with the help of these students. Simultaneously working models of science were also displayed. Each class turn by turn visited the venue of exhibition and availed the opportunity.

Children were very enthusiastic and ecstatic to see the work. Many students were seen being actively involved in solving the puzzles. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

***Smart Girl Workshop by Teacher Cecy for our students***

Tr. Cecy from Auxilium Convent School, Lonavla underwent a massive two days workshop at

Wagholi, Pune and later she conducted training for teachers of Maval taluka to take seminars for their students in their schools. The main aim of this movement is to make the girls smart:- "to be happy", "to be strong" there were in all 155 master trainers present for this seminar. It was held on 25th and 26th Sept 2017.

On 28th and 29th Sept, Tr Cecy conducted a seminar for the students of std IX along with their parents. On 6th and 7th Nov, a seminar was conducted for STD X students and their parents. Through some videos, presentations, slides, valuable messages were given to the students. Tr. Cecy explained our girls how they should carry themselves smartly in the society.



Students became aware of their rights and learnt how to voice their feelings in the society to their parents . Parents too realized the difficulties that their children undergo. Overall it was a very enriching session. All the students actively participated in it and there was a healthy feedback from the parent's side too.

PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



O MY GOOD MOTHER...

## Significant events in our houses

### CONVOCAATION DAY AT DAHANU



There was a beautiful atmosphere of 'Live & Let Live' that resounded in the Campus of Auxilium Youth Animation Centre, Dahanu, as the Graduation Ceremony was held on 28th September 2017 for the first four batches of General Duty Assistance (GDA) Health Sector Course. The Chief Guest Dr. Arun Yadav – Medical superintendent of the Cottage Hospital, graced the occasion. All the GDA students marched in procession to the hall. The Prayer dance and the Lighting of the Lamp set the tone for the solemn function. Amid songs, dances and speeches, the Certificates were given to the students. Cinderella Rianzao, a first batch student, shared her success story. She comes

from a poor financial back ground and could not study further because of financial constraints. One day she met Sr. Mangala who invited her to do the GDA Course. After having completed the course, Cinderella works at Phoenix hospital. She is very happy because her income is a source joy for her family. She is blessed with her parents and siblings. She says at Auxilium we learned many things besides patient care and Assistance.

On this beautiful occasion a book of Sr. Teresa Joseph 'Paha mothi swapan, Khari swapan' was released jointly by Dr. Arun Yadav and Mr. Visham Tappa and a copy was offered to each student who received the certificate. The GDA students put up beautiful dances which were liked and appreciated by all present. Snacks and lunch were offered by the students themselves. The whole programme was organized by the students themselves, under the able guidance of dear Sr. Mangal Kolge FMA.

### SPORTS DAY AT AUXILIUM-AHMEDNAGAR

Auxilium High School and Junior College, Ahmednagar, held its Annual Sport's day on 8



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****SUMMER CLUB TRAINING**

Come summer and we find the newspapers filled with attractive lists of clubs organized for children to spend their time in creative learning. Obviously, each club will try to do the best to be better than the rest. Keeping children engaged in constructive activities, being more of a Salesian Mission Spirituality, we too engage ourselves in our different communities in organising Summer Clubs.

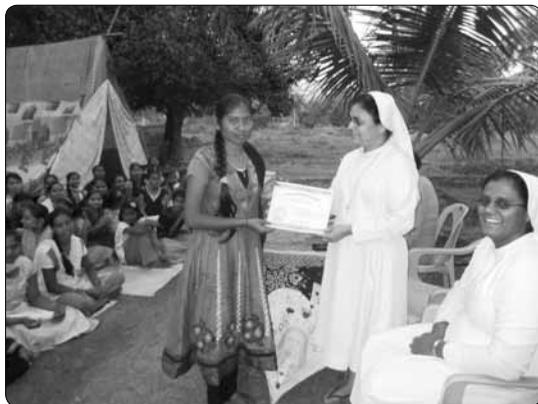
December 2017. Mr. Sangram Jagtap , MLA of Ahmednagar, was the Chief Guest for this grand occasion and Mr. Sampat Baraskar (Corporator, AMC) was the Guest of Honour. The animator Sr. Teresa Plathara and the Headmistress Sr. Lata Arogiaswamy welcomed the Chief Guest, the Guest of honour and our SSC and HSC toppers of 2016-2017. The sports day was declared officially open by the Chief Guest who also released a couple of white pigeons in the vastness of the sky – a symbolic action signifying Auxilium's hopes and aspirations which are always soaring high and achieving the maximum. After the felicitations, there were a whole lot of events and activities which concluded with the prize distribution ceremony. Not only the children but also the parents and the teaching as well as the non-teaching staff members enjoyed themselves to the full. It was a sight to see the students and parents enthusiastically and sportingly competing with each other in the running races. Indeed the theme "Run, jump, play-do your best" recommended by Don Bosco to his boys was seen in action by all those who were present for our Annual Auxilium Sport's day.

This means that we need to make ourselves more equipped in order to attract more youngsters to a more enriching, fun filled yet spiritual program. To update ourselves in this regard, a total of 19 sisters of the MM Mumbai province had a Summer Club Preparation Programme from 27th to 28th December 2017 at Auxilium Benaulim, Goa. The main theme for the programme was 'The Art of Communication', the purpose being to be better equipped at being on stage and speaking confidently at the mike. Through the course we learnt how to address a gathering in a creative yet professional way.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Being FMA, for the young and with the young, and being better equipped in the art of communication, we hope to organize much better summer clubs in our respective communities in the year 2018.

**NUTRITION IN AHMEDNAGAR**

On 22nd Nov. 2017 we began the Nutrition and Environment camp for our Auxilium Community College students. Sr. Krupalata Pereira and Sr. Rashmika Macwan were the animators of this annual event.

It was a three day camp- the theme being "Save life- Save environment". The Camp began with an inaugural function. Fr. George D'Britto, SDB was invited as the chief guest. We began

with a short prayer moment and felicitated the guests of honour – Sr. Teresa Plathara and Sr. Lata Arogiaswamy, after which Fr. George spoke a few words to the nursing students.

During this camp the first year ACC students collected Rs. 500 each and with that money they brought all the required articles and food grains for the camp. The work was divided among the students, who cooked and worked in the garden as it was also an environment camp. All the students enjoyed the camp to the full and gave themselves generously for the work entrusted to them. Every day the students cooked different dishes and they were judged by the sisters and accordingly points were allotted to them. We also held different competitions on different days like Rangoli, Drawing, Hairstyle, Street play and Essay writing.

On the last day we concluded with a closing ceremony through the blessings of the Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Vishwas Pereira, SDB was the main celebrant. He shared several inspiring messages with the ACC students.

At the end we distributed the prizes to the students who had done well in the competitions and were generous in their self giving for the camp. Sr. Teresa Plathara, the Animator of our community gave away the certificates and Sir Suhas K, A P.T. teacher of Auxilium gave away the trophy to the winners. Every one enjoyed the camp and learnt a lot of useful things of daily living.

**MEMORABLE TRIP TO SULCORNIA (ADMA)**

On 22nd of September 2017, a bright and beautiful Friday, 18 members of ADMA (Association of Daughters of Mary Help of Christian) took a trip to Sulcornia to visit the Mornese Vihar headed by Sr. Natal Rodrigues. Upon our arrival there at 3:45 pm we were

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

warmly welcomed by the sisters of Mornese Vihar community including our very own Sr. Ines Monteiro who was brimming with joy on seeing us. A special Eucharistic celebration was arranged for us offered by Fr. Bernadino Da Almeida SDB. It was a dual celebration: the birthdays of Sr. Rosy, Superior of Sulcorna and Mrs. Emiritas Fernandes an ADMA member.

In his homily Father stressed the importance of our heavenly Mother Mary Help of Christians and exhorted us to pray to her piously, for she never forsakes anyone. He also spoke of the statue of Mary Help of Christians which is erected on the hill and of her miraculous powers beyond our imagination in protecting people and reaching out to the community. He gave us a brief history of the plan of erecting this statue on the high mountain. On the 24th of every month Holy Mass is offered on the hill at 5 pm.

After tea and snacks we were all set to trek up to see that miraculous statue nestled amid the verdant hills of Sulcorna. Fr. Bernadino informed us that a lot of miracles take place there through

the intercession of our Mother Mary, but he also warned us that it would be an arduous trek. Yet we all decided to walk up the hill to the statue. We had a wonderful experience traversing the hill with many obstacles on the way. However, with our heavenly Mother's help we reached the top and were amazed to see the awesome statue. After devoutly reciting a few prayers, it was time for us to return. So at 6:30 pm we clambered down the hill and into our bus to return home. Surprisingly, we did not feel too tired; we were really refreshed and joyous on seeing the huge statue of Mary help of Christians.

### **VILLAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME (VEP) OUTING (DAKOR)**

On 18th November 2017 around 300 VEP children were taken for an outing to Nadiad. The children had gathered on the grounds of Pushpanjali at 10.00 am. Each teacher was given a set of badges as an ID card for the children and attendance was taken. The Animator Sr. Sunanda Solanki, Sr. Pricilla Bhanga and the teachers accompanied

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...



the children. The first place visited was the Santram Mandir. The children were delighted to see it and went around getting to know the place. Later lunch was served to them by the temple authorities. After lunch we proceeded to the Mai Mandir where there is big statue of god Shankar. Interesting games were conducted for the children at this place. They were delighted and enjoyed the games, bagging many prizes. Here delicious snacks were served to all. At 4.30 pm. we left Nadiad to return home. On the return journey the children sang, danced and had an enjoyable time with one another. The children expressed gratitude to the sisters and went home happily. We reached Pushpanjali in the evening with a feeling of contentment as we were able to bring joy into the lives of so many village children.

### GRATITUDE DAY

#### *Lonavla*

Words of gratitude filled the air on 17th November 2017 as Auxilium school, Lonavla, celebrated Gratitude day. The day began with the staff treating the sisters to a delicious breakfast. Then there followed a variety entertainment programme, felicitating the sisters of the community. A "dhol tasha" and "lezim performance" accompanied the sisters of

the community, led by Sr. Josephine Fernandes and Sr. Sheela Furtado, to the school hall. The sisters were welcomed into the school basement hall with the traditional aarati. An interfaith prayer service on the theme of gratitude was conducted by the students. Dances, skits and songs were staged by the children from K.G to Junior College. Sr. Josephine and Sr. Sheela addressed the gathering, expressing their gratitude and appreciation. The sisters led by Sr. Josephine gifted pouches to the students and a printer to the staff. The sisters were then treated to lunch by the staff. During the post lunch time, a movie was screened for everyone to enjoy.



#### *Sulcorna*

"Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more we express gratitude for what we have, the more likely we will have even more to express gratitude for". On 11th December 2017 we the community of Mornese Vihar Sulcorna celebrated Gratitude Day with the theme "Christ the heart of our family".

In the evening we began with the vigil service. The service was well prepared and made us feel grateful for what we receive and enjoy in this our beautiful family. We prayed for each other and thanked each other with real sentiments in our hearts. The next day we woke up with grateful feelings to God the Almighty for being present in our community, in each one of us. We began this day with a prayer service that made each one feel great for contributing for the well being

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

of our community. All the boarders, hostelites and sisters were present for this great day. In the evening at 4.30 we had a solemn Mass that was the highest joy of this celebration. Fr. Bernadino Da Almeida, rector of Don Bosco Sulcorna celebrated the Eucharist and with his own way made us understand more the meaning of gratitude. In the evening all the boarders and hostelites expressed their gratefulness by putting up a beautiful programme. It was indeed a great day because Jesus is the centre

of our family. May Jesus continue to live in our hearts and in our community.

### **Baroda**

On 10th November 2017, the KG section celebrated gratitude day. The children sang different songs expressing their gratitude and love. A surprise dance performed by the teachers made us appreciate every moment as God's miracle of love and blessing.

## New Project

### **TAILORING CLASSES IN AHMEDNAGAR**

We at Laura Vicuna Niwas began tailoring classes on 15th November 2017, through the "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana" (PMKVY) Programme, supported by the national skills qualification framework. At present 30 Students are benefitting from this programme. The biometric system was installed and Sr. Pushpa Parmar will be monitoring this sector. The classes were officially declared open on 20 November 2017. We began with a small prayer moment and the lighting of the lamp. Sr. Teresa Plathara, the animator of the community, welcomed the students and distributed the text books and stitching kit to each student. Sr. Latha Arogyaswamy, the headmistress of Auxilium Convent High School, spoke to them on the

importance of learning this useful skill through which they can help and support themselves and their families too. On 22nd November, the second batch consisting of 30 students were already enrolled. We at Ahmednagar are happy to start this mission as it will help needy women; and supporting a woman means supporting a whole family.

## Common Activities

### **GANDHI JAYANTI**

#### **Koregaon Park**

In keeping with the Universal Solidarity Movement, here at Koregaon Park, we initiated an essay writing competition for the students of our centre. The essay writing theme was 'Father



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

of our nation'. Around 22 students were present for the same. The film Gandhi was screened followed by a debate on the five mistakes of Mahatma Gandhi.

Later the students received certificates for their whole hearted participation which revealed our youngsters deep love and appreciation for the great soul Mahatma Gandhi.

**Aux- Lonavla**

The Lonavla Education Department and the Block Education Officer Vadgaon Panchyat Samiti asked all schools to have a special programme to mark the significance of the day.

It was a non-instructional workday so staff and students of the whole school were present from 8 am to 12 noon.

The Greenline students along with the Girl Guides joined a rally to create awareness about cleanliness in our society. This rally commenced from Auxilium at 8 am and ended at the Lonavla Municipal Corporation by 9:30 am. Other schools too participated in the rally. All the LMC dignitaries were present for the flag hoisting and an inspirational message was given by LMC President Mrs. Surekha Jadhav on the cleanliness of our town.

In Auxilium a prayer service was held for peace in our world. Speeches were delivered on Gandhiji and Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary is commemorated on the same day.

The students and teachers conducted a cleanliness drive in the school building, the campus and around the school. The movie Gandhi was screened after completing the cleaning activity. It was an enriching experience for all of us.

**Madanthyar**

"Change starts with me" was the slogan with which the Maria Kripa AYM group very enthusiastically cleaned the surrounding of the house, the parish and the main road. They promised to keep their surroundings clean and tidy wherever they are. In the afternoon the girls viewed a movie on cleanliness. In the evening a prayer moment was animated for them concluding with video clippings on the life of Gandhiji.

**Shirva**

The boarders of Auxilium Niwas, Shirva, celebrated Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti in an enthusiastic way. We started our day by cleaning our surroundings; a wonderful experience. During the day we paid tribute to the Father of the nation with a prayer service for peace in our Land. Some inspiring videos were screened to inculcate in our young boarders' minds

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

and hearts the spirit of goodness, peace and cleanliness.

***SJTC celebrates Gandhiji Week***

We the community of SJTC, Lonavla celebrated Gandhiji Week from 25th September to 2nd October 2017. The purpose of this celebration was to advocate values of peace and non-violence and to pray for peace in the world.



The programme of the entire week was as follows:

1. A short inter-faith prayer moment for peace together with the students of Auxilium High School, Lonavla, classwise namely Std. X, IX, VIII, VII and VI on the 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th of October respectively. After the prayer moment a short video clipping was screened from Gandhiji's life depicting his honesty when he as a student misspelt the word 'kettle'.
2. The Candidates prepared 3 projects (group wise) on Gandhiji's life.
  - a) Gandhiji's childhood up to his completion of studies
  - b) Gandhiji and his works for peace and non-violence
  - c) Gandhiji and his family life
3. Viewed the film 'Gandhi' by Richard Attenborough and an evaluation of it.
4. Performed Street Plays on the topic:
  - a) Mahatma Gandhi - a man of peace
  - b) Gandhiji and religious harmony
5. Researched Gandhi Memorial in Pune – Aga Khan Palace
6. Educational Picnic to Aga Khan Palace on the 30th of September 2017
7. A prayer service for peace together with the Sisters of Auxilium Convent, Lonavla and the inmates of Premdaan on 1st October 2017

In preparation for the week, 5 notice boards were prepared by the candidates with Mahatma Gandhiji's maxims on peace, non-violence and religious harmony. These notice boards were placed at the entrance of the house and in the hall where the school children had the inter-faith prayer service. By the end of the week the candidates and the Sisters learned the life of Gandhiji and his spirituality which is a model

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

for every human person especially for religious people.

### Uttan



Mazzarello Centre, Uttan pays tribute to Father of the Nation with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'!

Indians gained freedom under the leadership of Gandhiji, but his dream of a clean India is still unfulfilled. Mahatma Gandhi said "Sanitation is more important than independence". He made cleanliness and sanitation an integral part of his way of living. His dream was total sanitation for all. Cleanliness is most important for physical wellbeing and a healthy environment. Thus the Anmol children set out on the morning of 2nd October 2017 to pay homage to the Father of the Nation by cleaning the surroundings of their house. The children enthusiastically set an example to each other to clean their vicinity and keep it uncluttered.

## COMPETITIONS

### Auxilium Carona organizes Kite flying

"Aim high, the sky is your limit" The students of Auxilium School, Carona, had their kite flying competition on 23 November 2017. The pupils were asked to prepare kites at home. It was a beautiful sight to behold as the kites of different



shapes and hues coloured the sky. It was a joy for us educators to see smiles on the faces of children as they saw their kites rising high.

### Fancy dress



The Fancy dress competition was held on 17th November 2017 for the students from the nursery to Std. IV. The classes had different themes like occupations, fruits, vegetables and professions. It was good to see that a large number of children participated in this competition.

Above all, the parents showed much interest and enthusiasm in dressing their children suitably and training them for the character they were representing at the competition. The judges appreciated the children for the confidence and talent they displayed.

### Akash Diyas

On 6th November 2017, Auxilium Primary School, Carona, conducted a competition of

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...



preparing Akash Diya (Lamps). The children were very excited and brought the needed material for the preparation of the lamps. The theme given to them was: "Be the light". With their tiny fingers, they patiently worked on the clay to mould the lamps. There were also some students struggling with the task, yet doing their best to prepare a lamp. The lamps were colourful and attractive and the Sisters and teachers appreciated the children for their hard work and creativity.

### English Elocution at Aux-Lonavla

The secondary section held the English Elocution competition on 26th September 2017. The competition had two parts: extempore speeches and choral recitation. The themes of this year's school project, Tourism and Family, were highlighted. The students of Std. VIII, IX,



and X participated in the extempore speech competition. Two students represented each house, totaling eight speakers. The choral recitation was conducted house-wise with each of the four houses presenting one poem. The recitations were done creatively with appropriate props. The judges for the competitions were Prof. Dr. Gitanjali Mali, Ms.

Jessie Cordeiro and Mrs. Ankita Majumdar. The most deserving were judged the winners.

### Auxilium Benaulum - A hub of Talent



In the two thousand and seventeenth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, in the reign of Sr. Elizabeth Coelho as Headmistress of Auxilium Benaulum a 'Talent Day' was organized. Each student according to their potentiality, creativity and innovative thinking uniquely displayed their talent in their creation/work. Auxilium Benaulum abounds in Talent: Future Designers, Chefs, Jewelers, Artists, Interior Decorators, Beauticians.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

While every child gets a platform to showcase his/her talent, it gives every teacher an opportunity to see the child in a different perspective. The naughtiest child in the class turns out to be an exceptional artist; a quiet one – a creative painter. So the talent day became a moment of surprise and thrill for the educator and the educand. Parents, past pupils and visitors who were invited to judge the activities appreciated the talents of the children in T-Shirt painting, old shoes painting, articles of Jeans, jewellery making.

What makes a child gifted and talented may not help to score good grades in school, but offers a different way of looking at the world of learning. Auxilium Benaulim organizes this talent day to enable its students' to display their innovative and creative skills.

**DANDIYA RAAS/DANCE****Aux-Lonavla**

Navratri is celebrated all over India with zeal and enthusiasm. As this festival brings everyone together, and 2017 was the year of the Family the Past Pupils Lonavla Unit organised Family Dandiya Dhoom; under the guidance of our Past Pupil delegate, Sr. Sheela Furtado. All the students of Auxilium and their families were invited. The campus was lit with lights all around, the music made all dance on their feet.

In canteen sold items prepared by the poor families of our school students, thus making it a source of income for them.

The programme began at 6:00 pm with the lighting of the lamp by: our chief guest Mrs. Manjushree Wagh, the President and social worker of Ranragini Group; the guest of honour Sr. Sheela Furtado our delegate: Superior Sr. Josephine Fernandes; Dr. Vaishali Chitamnai president of women organisation; Mr. Jitu Kalyanji our past pupil and well wisher; Tr. Rebecca and Tr. Shanta our senior most past pupil teachers.

There were competitions held for best dancers and best costumes of every category from the KG section to Std. X. Open rounds, couple rounds and family rounds were organised. The winners received prizes. Lucky draw too was organised for every class. This event was made remarkable by our sponsors and well wishers.

Students and their families returned home with memories to cherish forever.

**Dance Competition for NCP in MYC**

On the evening of 25 November 2017, Sr. Anita Tairipascu organized a Dance Competition for all the NCP groups of the different areas. Each of the groups prepared themselves much in advance. The competition began with a prayer after which the dances followed. Each dance was better than the other and the judges Mr. Rahul



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

and Ms. Lavina had a difficult time in judging the worth of each item. This competition helped the children to work together and to co-ordinate things with one another. All the children were appreciated for their efforts and were rewarded with a delicious samosa for each one.

**Dandiya Raas MYC**

On 6th October towards evening, it was raining cats and dogs, in the midst of lightning and thunder the AYM members of MYC, Wadala conducted Dandiya Raas 2017. The event began with a prayer service by reading Scriptural quotations from different religions. The members had invited the Support Staff as Chief guests for the day. It was then followed by the lighting of the lamp by the Support Staff. After the prayer service, they invited the mothers of two of our NIOS students to lead the Dandiya Raas, and from that moment on the children, youngsters, adults, Sisters danced to their hearts' content.

**Dandiya Raas Pansora**

On 29th November 2017, Jag Prakash Kanya Chatralay boarding girls had the Gujarati cultural dance competition. They were four groups. Each group did their best to perform the dance. There was unity and support of each group member to give their 100% for their group. At the end Sr. Sunitha Dabhi gave the goodnight message where she narrated the story of a boy who had the golden begging bowl but had not recognized the value of it. We have talents in us but at times we don't use them, we fail to realize their value and forget how precious our talents are.

All the girls were appreciated for their efforts and competitive spirit.

**UTTAN PARTICIPATES IN THE SHUBHAMAHOTSAV 2017!**

Anmol kids participated in the Shubhamahotsav 2017, Let's dance once again to make someone smile. It was organized by Jai Jinendra Events Group at Porwal Ground, Bhayandar. The Chief Guest was Gaurav Porwal, the Vice President of Maharashtra Bhartiya Janatayuva Morcha. Every year Jai Jinendra Events Group organizes one Garba night for orphan kids in order to make them smile and enjoy this festival. Thanks to Jai Jinendra Events Group more than 800 orphan kids from different institutions relished and

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

appreciated this one-night event. Our girls participated in this programme with Sr. Sushma Solanki, Sr. Savina Naik and the staff.

**MARY IS HONOURED****Bableshtar**

On 1st October 2017, we began the month of the Rosary and every family at the Infant Jesus Parish began their preparations to welcome Mary into their homes. Mary came to visit us at Maria Bhavan. It was indeed a beautiful moment when Mary was welcomed and placed in a beautifully decorated space.

Around 60 people came to pray the Rosary and honour Mary. We then had the Holy Eucharist followed by refreshments. All returned home with joy. We were indeed happy to Mother Mary as she blessed each of us.

**Benaulim**

*Sogllim sangata mell'-ia,  
Sogllim lagim sor'-ia  
Amche talle ek kor'-ia  
Moriek porkond dium-ia.*



On 10th October 2017, the members of ADMA and co-operators along with our neighbouring families gathered together at St. Francis Xavier's Convent Benaulim to honour Mary. The statue of Our Lady was taken in procession to the School premises and all along the Rosary was prayed for different intentions animated by the cooperators. After the Rosary snacks were served to all present.

On 11 October, at 5:00 pm, the Marian group of Auxilium Benaulim, gathered at St. Francis Xavier convent to spend the evening in honour of Mary. At 5:15 pm we began with a prayer moment. The videos on Mary followed by a few questions helped all to understand Mary's call more deeply. Later all were divided into four

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

groups to enjoy different games that taught about our Blessed Mother. May all of us continue to learn more about Mary and Jesus.

**Kalathur**

'We Love you Mary' was the theme for the entire month of Mary. Through creative animation we came closer to Mary. On the final day we facilitated a prayer service, the children animated the Rosary and the Sisters conducted a few creative games interspersed with a various competitions. 'Mary is our mother who she continues to protect and guide us daily so let us entrust ourselves to her and love her more.'

**Wadala**

The communities of Aux-Wadala and MYC, gathered together at MYC to conclude the Marian month. Nearly 30 of us were present including our helpers. Sr. Phyllis Fernandes creatively animated the prayer service and

Marian games. We all enjoyed each other's company and grew in our love for Mary through songs, enactments and quizzes. The day ended with delicious snacks and a sumptuous meal.

**Nandgad**

If I had an army to say the Rosary, I could conquer the world."(Blessed Pope Pius IX) The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labours. (Pope Pius XI).



On 8th of October OUR LADY OF FATIMA visited us. We along with the entire parish community prayed ROSARY together animated and decorated the place by Srs. Shanthi Fernandez, Smitha Monis and Reshma Rosario as our sisters Superior Monica Shera, Anita Gracias and Antonetta Horta kept ready other arrangements. We were happy to pray together the ROSARY weapon against the enemy along with the parish clergy and parishioners. We were the privileged once to have mother Mary in our house for 2 days. As the procession reached our house Sr. Monica the head of the house welcomed Mother Mary with the garland of flowers and incenses. We prayed for the various intensions our congregation, province,

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

communities, parish and for our families. It is a good initiative to pray ROSARY together. At the end we offered snacks to all those who were gathered for the Rosary.

### ECO ACTIVITIES

#### *Pali*

##### ► *Eco-bricks*

On the 8th December 2017, the students of the Eco club of Auxilium Convent High School Bandra, conducted an activity for the entire school which was making 'eco bricks' to construct toilets at Versova.

Mr. Ashish Shelar, the MLA of Bandra, Ms. Shama Kulkarni an activist, Mr. Chandkant Tambe, Mr. Maykar, both officers from "Solid Waste Management" of the BMC were present. All the invitives in their speeches stressed on "No to Plastic". We had reporters from TV Channel- Zee



24 hours, Mirror (news paper) and Bandra Buzz (local news paper) who interviewed the Head mistress, the teachers and some students. A teacher and 12 students from Durello Convent School, Bandra also participated in this mega event.

##### ► *Rally for the planet*



On the 25th of November 2017, the students of the Eco Club of Auxilium-Pali Hill, along with Tr. Yolanda Ferreira and Sr. Judy Gaiwad, participated in the rally for the planet. It was organized by the Green Hammer Foundation. It commenced from Vasai Grounds and ended in Notre Dame School, Vasai. Many schools from the locality took part to create awareness to make Vasai a plastic-free area. Many dignitaries were part of this event and delivered short and thought provoking speeches. They rally ended by 11.00 am.

#### *Aux Benaulim*

##### ► *Connecting People to Nature!*

The Eco-Club of Auxilium Benaulim is an active network of students who are connected to nature. Go, Goa Green and Clean is their dream. Going around the school campus, creating awareness on cleanliness through their example of picking papers and segregating dry waste and wet waste protects nature from toxic waste.

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...



They work under the patronage of Saint Francis of Assisi a lover of nature who was so connected with nature, that he addressed every creature as brother and sister.

On 9th October these young nature lovers celebrated Environment Day with the sole aim of getting people connected to nature. The day began with the Eco Club members invoking the blessings of God the Creator and asking His grace to enhance and preserve nature. A monologue and a skit, (which won the first place in the School Complex, Benaulim) was powerfully enacted to encourage all to nurture and enrich our nature.

Sr. Elizabeth Coelho, the headmistress thanked Tr. Venita D'Costa who is in charge of motivating the Eco club members to take small steps to keep the environment clean and green.

Pope Francis in his Encyclical Laudato Si says, 'The earth is our common home, is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us'. Preserving the beauty of our Mother Earth is our duty and obligation. May all of us be servants found at our employment at the Master's arrival.

### WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

#### Ahmednagar

To celebrate the "World day of the Poor" which was fixed by the Church for 19 November, we

at Laura Vicuna Niwas, Ahmednagar, invited children from the Pardhi tribe to our convent on 24 November 2017. They belong to an Institution named the "Ujwal Children's Home" and were accompanied by the volunteers and the head of the Institution. We welcomed them with a song and a dance and then conducted some games and action songs for them. Sr. Collette Gonsalves then gave them a small talk on the importance of education and the need to be faithful to duties, obedient to their elders and grateful for all they receive. This Institute is



trying their best to help the children stand on their own feet through education. A sumptuous dinner was served to them, followed by prize distribution and gifts were given to each child. The children and volunteers were grateful for this programme organized for them and appreciated the kind gesture of the sisters.

#### Benaulim

"We do not love with words but with facts"

The message of Pope Francis for the First World Day of the Poor which will be celebrated on 19th November 2017, urged us, as a community, to do something for the poor in our neighbourhood.

On 16th November 2017 at 5.30 pm, we the sisters of St. Francis Xavier Convent, Benaulim, invited the mothers of our school students who are working as maids, to a memorable get together. 21 of them were present.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

We began with a short talk by Sr. Teotonia Vaz, who told them the purpose of calling them this evening. She told them about the Holy Father's initiative to reach out to the poor and also to learn from them. The example of St. Lawrence who loved the poor and considered them as the treasures of the Catholic Church, was explained to them. After the talk we prayed one decade of the rosary led by Sr. Susan Moraes, while praying for various intentions for them and for their families.

Some of them had come here soon after their day's work. In order to entertain them and make them feel relaxed, we had two games organized by Sr. Rebecca Thomas – musical chairs and passing the parcel. All of them participated willingly and joyfully. After all, they too need times of relaxation like we all do.

We got them excited with lucky-dip gifts for each of them. They had to pick up a number and the corresponding gift was given to them by Sr. Elizabeth Coelho. Our bursar Sr. Devdit Fernandez made sure to prepare good snacks for them. Sr. Agatha Dias thanked each of them for taking time out and coming here to be together with us. As they left to return home, each of them was given a bag containing useful goodies for the home. They were indeed grateful and thanked us for organizing this evening for them. As they left one of them whispered to us: "Thank you sisters for being with us poor people". The joy was ours to have

this opportunity of being with them and sharing God's gifts with them.

**Caranzalem**

The 'World Day of the Poor' was celebrated in a unique manner in Auxilium High School – Caranzalem. On Sunday, the 19th of November, 20 students along with 3 sisters went to Chimbel, a Government run Home for the Aged to spend with these poor ones, our time and love. We spent around an hour with the inmates, entertained them with our songs and jokes, and spent time talking and listening to them. It was a touching experience for both - them and us. The 'World Day of the Poor' moved to a Week and then a Month, as various outreach programmes were carried out. Canteen was organized by the different groups and houses of the school to collect funds for the same.

With different student representatives and sisters, we visited the 'Poor' at construction sites, at the streets and on the beaches too. With the money collected, we were able to purchase grains, soaps, biscuits and bedsheets which we lovingly distributed. The poor families of the school were helped too.

On the 22nd of December, the staff and students of the Primary Section invited the students of three Government School of the vicinity to our School Campus. Our school children welcomed them with music and put up a meaningful



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

Tableau, Christmas carol dance, and sang carols in Hindi. Games were conducted through which they were awarded exciting prizes. Students of Std III and IV with the help of their teachers had prepared lovely paper bags and filled them with soaps, biscuits, tooth paste, tooth brush, a pencil and rubber and a special gift of a water bottle and pouch. The 127 students from the Government Schools were much delighted to have a Christmas gift bag and snacks. The teachers from the Government Schools exclaimed that they hadn't experienced such goodness in the past years.

### Kune



The 'World day of the poor' was celebrated at Ashish Bhavan, Kune on 19th November 2017. We invited the widows of Kune village to celebrate the World Day of the poor in our campus. 13 women participated in it. We began our celebration with the Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Peter Rodrigues was the main celebrant. He based his sermon on Christian values. After Mass we conducted games for them which they enjoyed to the full. The Children put up beautiful dances for them on the topic on family. Together we had supper and gave them a packet of grains and a gift. We ended our day thanking the Lord for manifesting His love for us through the poor.

## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION DAY

### Dakor

- On 20th November 2017 we at Pushpanjali Technical Institute – Dakor, conducted a Communication day for our ITI trainees. We began with a meaningful prayer moment. Sr. Breenel Sambrea made the students aware of different types of communication and the advantages and disadvantages of social media. She also told them about the effect of social media on young people. She divided them into four groups and asked them to present the cultural, religious, relational and life-style changes that social media has brought about in our society. She also helped them understand how to communicate with oneself. They were shown some videos on the dos and donts to be kept in mind while using social media networking sites. We had a debate on social media during which the trainees meaningfully brought out their experiences on using social media. We concluded with a video on how to help everyone around us.
- Communication has become the centre nerve of the virtual world we live in today, where, at the press of a button or at the click of the mouse, we are able to hold the world in our hands. The 51st World



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Communication Day was celebrated at Pushpanjali-Dakor in a simple yet meaningful way. The Sunday Adoration was based on the theme of communication and social media. All the instruments of Communication were displayed along with the theme "Communicating hope and trust in our time". We reflected on the message of Pope Francis for the world Communication Sunday. The media has become a means of changing everything: habits, lifestyles, relationships etc. During the service we also prayed for all those who have become victims of Media and face challenges.

The World Communication Day was also kept up for the ITI students and the Boarders during which they were taught how to communicate with oneself, the different means of communication, how media is affecting people today and how we need to communicate to the people around us keeping in mind two things: technique and mindset. Another topic dealt with was: "What do the youth of today think about God, family relationship and lifestyle? The children were enriched also by learning about different social networking sites and how to have access to them. In this modern era we need to reflect whether holding the world in our hands is exciting or frightening. Although we have access to various social networking sites, many of us still feel a vacuum in our lives. What we need is reflection, introspection and the ability to integrate in our lives what is beautiful and enriching while letting go of what is superficial and unnecessary.

**Madanthyar**

On 21st November



2017, we conducted a media seminar for our hostel girls. Fr. Francis Rodriguez imparted his knowledge about media. He made them aware of the importance of Media by presenting a short and sweet video, which conveyed valuable messages. He said that media is a social network which should be controlled by us and we should never let ourselves be controlled by the media. He made them aware that the addiction to T.V and Internet and other forms of social media cause many kinds of problems like distraction, depression, high level of aggressiveness, less sleep etc. He said that people have become zombies due to addiction to social media. Human beings have lost their self respect and shame due to changes in the fashion world. Media is useful when we use it in a good way. So let us use media and not misuse it. He also said



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

that there are different factors that convince us to believe in media. It was an enlightening seminar because he made the girls aware of how media influences them positively while at the same time induces them to live according to its influence.

**DIWALI CELEBRATION*****Baroda***

On 29th September 2017 in the morning, the Gujarati and English medium celebrated Diwali and Workers' Day. The support staff was invited to come neatly dressed for the occasion. On this day the students and the teachers carried out various chores of the support staff just to appreciate all the odd jobs they do for us everyday. They were also presented valuable gifts. Light dispels darkness; a diya dance performed by the students helped us to understand the importance of the festival of Diwali.

Sr. Rita Lobo, the animator, expressed words of appreciation and thanked the Support Staff for their help and hardwork.

***Caranzalem***

Mini Diwali Dhamaka was the first of its kind, celebrated at Auxilium Caranzalem on 14th October 2017; the last school day before Diwali vacations. There was restricted entry of 130



students based on coupons. We began with a prayer moment, wherein a Hindu representative lit a lamp. We thus prayed that each of us may be little lamps spreading rays of joy and goodness. Then followed an evening of fun and dance interspersed by spot prizes, games and snacks. It was a wonderful evening indeed!

***Keshnand***

19th October 2017 was indeed a joyful day for all of us at Maria Sharan Keshnand as we celebrated the festival of light that is Diwali with our girls. We began with a service animated by Sr. Alka Almeida, which helped each of us to understand what it means to celebrate Diwali a feast of expel darkness from our life and bring light and become light for others. The lighting of lamps and carrying them in a procession was a core experience and we did enjoy wishing each other Happy Diwali, thus sharing our moments



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

together we joined the whole community of the society in celebrating this festival of light.

**Kune**

On 12th October 2017 there was great joy and festivity all around Ashish Bhavan Kune Katkari Vidhya Mandhir School. The celebration began with a meaningful Diwali prayer service. Sr. Teresa Dharmaraj, the superior of the house and the teachers and students entered with lit diyas and placed them around the school. Children performed lovely dances on the importance of light and wishing each one Happy Diwali. Sir Rahul Tandand explained very well with historical stories the five days of Diwali. Appreciation for the efforts of the students was then delivered by Sr. Teresa who also emphasized the significance of Diwali-light in our darkened world. It was a meaningful celebration befitting the name Deepavali.

**Maria Vihar****> Hostel**

The vibrant young girls of Maria Vihar Youth Center, Nashik, celebrated Diwali with devotion, enthusiasm and excitement. Tastefully decorated, the campus added charm and religious fervor to the atmosphere as did the beautiful girls. A brief prayer moment lifted up

the spirit of celebration. Rangoli and Mahendi competition for the girls followed. As a token of love and appreciation for the hard work of the Golden Jubilee programme of Sr. Margaret Anaswamy we distributed cake and sweets. This Celebration of Diwali with the Sisters was a first experience for many girls of the hostel. It was a great evening for the girls as they enjoyed a few fun games and some dancing. Indeed it was a colourful day!

**> Nursery**

Diwali celebrations were also held for the little angels' school amidst joy and cheer. A traditional welcome was given to the festively dressed students of the Nursery playgroup. They were informed about the significance of the festival. Decorated in vibrant hues, the school had an ambience of joy and happiness. Teachers made beautiful Rangoli designs with the children, then prayed with them and served them sweets.

**> Boarding**

Diwali was also enthusiastically celebrated at the boarding with creative designs made by the girls. The Sisters conducted a prayer service for the boarders, followed by many games, action songs, and some refreshments.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****Ahmednagar (5 project schools)**

On 14th November, 2017 the students of the 5 project schools had their Diwali celebration with the CG volunteers. In each school the children had different competitions such as fort making, greeting cards, aksha kandil making, etc. The CG volunteers visited each school along with Sr. Collette Gonsalves, the Project Coordinator, to view and judge the competition. In each school the students prepared a programme for the day. The teachers took great interest. In each school the CG volunteers spoke on the importance of Diwali and encouraged the students and teachers to be lights to their family members and spread light no matter where they are through their kind words and good deeds. At the end the programme snacks were served to all the children.

**CHILDREN'S DAY****Ahmednagar**

The boarders of Laura Vicuna Niwas-Ahmednagar, celebrated Children's Day and the 140th anniversary of missionary expedition on 14th Nov. 2017 using power-point presentations, the Sisters animated prayer moments and a quiz on the missionary Sisters. A missionary corner was created to commemorate the event. The boarders enjoyed different games and activities



and were enlightened by the talk given by Sr. Krupalatha Pereira. As the day concluded, the children felt that they are loved and cared for.

**Bableshwar**

On 12, November 2017, We had children's day for those of the vicinity and to our amazement around 120 children turned up. After a moment of prayer conducted by Sr. Joanna Lobo, Sr. Catherine Pereira welcomed the children and as our theme was on Children and the environment, she highlighted their role as co-creators.

The cultural programme consisted of dances and a play on Mother Earth, through this stage programme the little children brought home the message that the children need to play their part to save the earth.

They made a commitment to keep watch on their surroundings and help people to keep the place clean. Each family was given a cloth bag to remind themselves and their family members that they need to say 'No to Plastic Bags' and 'Yes to Cloth Bags'

The Senior most citizen of our area Mr. Bhodak was invited, in his talk he appreciated the presentation of the children and encouraged them to keep their surroundings clean and feel responsible, he also spoke about 'Chacha Nehru' and his immense love for children.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

'Hum Balak hai desh ke hum badte jayenge' (We are children of this country and we will keep marching ahead) was the song they kept singing, this song invited them to go ahead and also make this country a home of peace.

We then had games for them which they enjoyed, later they danced to their hearts content. They were then given prizes and snacks.

It was a fruitful day as the children felt convinced that they need to do their part to save the country .

**Baroda**

Children's day was celebrated with full zest and vigour on 14th November 2017 by the English and Gujarati medium schools, organized by the teachers.

During the morning hours, the English medium programme began with a meaningful prayer service animated by the sisters who thanked God with beautiful expressions for the presence and the gift of our beloved children. This was followed by a well prepared cultural programme presented by the teaching and non- teaching staff. The sisters gave a lovely surprise to the students as they danced to the tune of "Penquin dance" and enacted a classroom scene culminating with a lovely song of appreciation for our children. The staff of the KG section also wished the tiny tots through a skit on "chota

beem". The KG children thoroughly enjoyed this item.

In the afternoon, the Gujarati medium teachers performed many dances and enacted a short skit depicting the children of today and the importance they give to education. A scene from the film "Bahubali" enacted by the staff, kept the young audience spell-bound.

The climax of the programme was the heart-warming message delivered by Sr. Rita Lobo to the students, which consisted basically of three important guidelines to live a successful life:

- i. To live the sacredness of life
- ii. To cultivate the capacity for resilience
- iii. To take responsibility for one's own actions

All said and done, the entire programme was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the children. For the occasion, sweets and gifts were distributed to all the students.

**Benaulim**

"You can count on me like 1,2,3...and I'll be there" were the reassuring words on the lips of the Sisters and Teachers of Auxilium Benaulim as they celebrated Children's day 2017. "You can count on me like 1, 2, 3 and I'll be there for you". The best gift a teacher can give to his/her students is the gift of oneself, the assurance of one's presence and accompaniment during the childhood and youthful years of a student's life. That's what was expressed on 14th November by the teachers. In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me...". So the day began by invoking the blessings of the Lord. During the prayer moment, the class monitors as representatives of the students, carried flowers symbolizing uniqueness, beauty, fragrance and meaning. Teachers are the gardeners who nurture these flowers, the children, with good values, helping

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...



them to bloom and spread the fragrance of goodness around them. The prayer moment was followed by a short entertainment presented by the teachers.

Our Headmistress Sr. Elizabeth Coelho crowned the day's celebration narrating a short story with a great message, urging the students to spread the fragrance of goodness and good values in the school and in society, thus making this world a beautiful place for everyone.

### **Carona**

Children's day was celebrated with much love and joy on 14th November 2017. The theme was "Grow and bloom in God's Love".

The day began with the prayer service during which we praised and thanked God for the gift



of the children entrusted to our care. We prayed that they may grow in God's love and be good citizens.

The children were excited to see their teachers on the stage. The teachers put up a humorous farce which the children enjoyed the most.

Each teacher conducted games for their respective class and the winners bagged prizes. To add to the celebration, the Sisters, teachers and the support staff prepared "bhelpuri" which the children relished.

The students of Auxilium- Carona enjoyed the day and along with them, we staff members and management also felt a deep sense of contentment that that our little ones felt loved and important.

### **Dakor**

Children add joy and cheer to life. They are the ones for whom we have dedicated our lives. They play an important role in society. Children are like sweet fragrance in the house of the Lord. Commemorating the birthday of our first Prime Minister Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the lover of children, on 14th November we celebrated children's day with our boarders at Pushpanjali - Dakor. With much enthusiasm we began our programme with a meaningful prayer service guided by Sr. Pricilla, imploring God's blessings on each one of them. This was followed by a short entertainment. The children were really very happy and they enjoyed themselves to the full. The Sisters took the initiative of putting up some items and this brought deep joy to the children. At the conclusion, a festive meal was served to them. Sr. Sunanda Solanki greeted them and motivated them with her value based stories. It was indeed an enjoyable day for us and for the children. On 16th and 17th November, Sr. Elphina Rodrigues organized children's day celebration for the children of the

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

Government schools in the villages of Jakhed and Vanoti. Sr. Elphina took a session on "rights of the children". She also spoke to them and made them aware of the causes of addictions such as drinking and smoking different kinds of tobacco mixtures. Sr. Sunanda and Sr. Breenel Sambrea were also present. A rally was taken around the whole village, raising slogans and making society aware of these dangers. A few games were conducted for them.

**Kalathur**

The 14th of November is a special day for all children of India as we celebrate Children's Day on that day. In the evening the Salesian co-operators of Kalathur came together and celebrated children's day in our house. The celebration began with a prayer service and Mr. Mark, a Co-operator spoke to children about



their responsibility as a child. It was the Birthday celebration of our dear Sr. Beatrice Monteiro who completed 79 years. And on the 13th of November, one of our co-operators celebrated her 75th birthday. As they cut the cake, the children and all of us sang the birthday song and wished them a long life.

Then the co-operators distributed snacks, cake and soft drinks to the children. The children were very grateful to them and reciprocated by imploring God's blessings on each of them.

**Kune**

At Ashish Bhavan Kune, 'Children's Day' was celebrated on 14th November 2017. The prayer service was animated meaningfully and prayerfully by Sr. Carol Nunes. During the prayer service we invoked God's blessings on our students. We had around 90 children from our school and from the Zilla Parishad Kune Nama School. A variety of games was organized for the children and they participated wholeheartedly in them. The children had great fun and enjoyed themselves to the full. At 11.00 am Sr. Vaneeta Khristi animated an awareness programme on the topic of participation and decision making. After the session Sr. Teresa Dharmaraj, the animator of the house, appreciated the

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

children for their whole hearted participation and rewarded them with gifts. The programme concluded with each child receiving a tetra pack and chips. The day was a fruitful one for the children and for us educators.

**Lonavla**

Chacha Nehru, as our first Prime Minister was fondly called by children, is remembered today all over India on his birth anniversary. Children's Day is celebrated with great joy and fun. Our school children came to school excitedly and expectantly. All colourfully dressed, they assembled on the school ground. The Sisters and teachers of the school, of all sections, then staged a variety entertainment programme of song, skit and dance. A special prayer service invoked God's blessings on our children. A novel feature of this year's celebration was an orchestra conducted by the musician parents of our students. The parents brought their own instruments, sound system and performed many lively songs. The students appreciated this performance and applauded loudly for the parents who performed.

Sr. Sheila Furtado appreciated the many persons who put in efforts to make our school children happy. She also wished all the children lots of happiness. The students were gifted a pack of UNO cards as a special gift from the school.

The second part of the day saw the students unfolding their talents: Warli paintings, flower making, toran making, wall hangings, best out of waste - these were the options for the competitions. Std X students were engaged in cooking, displaying their culinary skills. Judges were brought in to choose the best.

All in all, the day was a joyful one enjoyed by all the children.

**Mundhwa**

Children's day was celebrated on 15th November 2017 at Eusebia Pre-Primary School, Mundhwa, Pune. The celebration was held in the Nursery hall and the backdrop displayed various colorful flowers with the wordings: "Children are like Flowers". The Children were told that it was their special day. They were all dressed in colourful clothes of various fashions. We teachers thanked the Lord for the GIFT of children, because they add colour, joy and beauty to life. The teachers sang for the children and wished them Happy Children's Day. A few games were organized for them, making them sing, dance and run around the hall with joy. The sisters and teacher danced with the children and making them feel happy and excited. The children enjoyed to the full. Before going home, the children were offered lollipops and jeelabis. They were delighted and returned home happy.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

The same evening, the children of the Remedial Classes were greeted by the Sister Teachers and were told about the significance of Children's day and how they could be a source of joy to their parents if they studied well and behaved well. Sr. Smitha Gonsalves spoke to the children about the importance of life and the necessity to study and help their parents and make them happy through their good results. They should make use of every opportunity of learning and growing into beautiful people.

Later that evening we had the visit of Sr. Moksha Antonappa of the Social Development office and Sr. Sunanda Thombe of Auxilium Koregaon Park Community who accompanied Mr. Francis, Co-ordinator of the Remedial class programme. He had come to visit the children and give them tips on how to study well and grow up into healthy and active citizens of India. The children welcomed the Guest with a few words of welcome and sang a welcome Song of blessing. Mr. Francis asked them a few questions and enlightened them about their rights as children. Mr. Francis taught them the four important RIGHTS out of twelve Rights that children should know about, that is the : 1. Right to Survival. 2. Right to Protection. 3. Right to Participation and 4. Right to Development. He encouraged the children to learn about their rights so that they could grow up as active and enterprising young people of the Country.

**MYC(NCP)**

"Let the little children come to me" On 18th November 2017 Sr. Anita Tairipascu along with her team celebrated Children's Day for the NCP children. There were about 95 children. The day began with the registration of the children. The programme began with a short prayer moment by Sr. Jeena Bandhya. Sr. Anita spoke about the importance of the day. The students of Nirmala Niketen Somaya and Amaljit conducted a



session on decision making and of the Rights of children. Next we had the cultural programme which consisted of two dances and a song. We were privileged to have Mr. Francis from Delhi - NDF member.

We had some games like tug of war and the like. This was followed by the final message which was delivered by Sr. Hilda Braganza, the animator of the community. Each child received a gift and snacks. The children enjoyed the evening and we sisters made it a memorable day for them.

**NIRMAL**

14th November 2017 was a special day for our tuition children of Rojodi. About 45 children from Std. I to Std. IV were present for the celebration. It started around 2.30pm with a meaningful prayer service.

Each child is created by God in His own image and likeness and each one is special and unique. The children also raised their voices in spontaneous prayer, thanking God for the gift of their life. The prayer service was followed by a variety of games, the singing of songs and distribution of snacks.

At 6.00 pm. we concluded the day with prize distribution and giving of gifts. Sr. Shaila

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

D'Monte, the animator of the community, spoke to the children telling them that they are beautiful flowers given to us by God.

It was the first time that these children had a celebration of this kind and they returned to their homes with joy and delight.

On the same day, Don Bosco Yuva Kendra celebrated Children's Day with the nursery children. There was joy and happiness as they danced and sang gleefully. The Sisters too sang a song of blessing for them. We concluded our programme distributing gifts and snacks to the kids.

**Oros****► Empowering children for a better society!**

The long awaited children's day was kept up together with the World day of the Poor on November 19, 2017. A lot of hard work was put in by many hands. The theme for the celebration was "Empowering children for a better society". The day began with the celebration of the holy Eucharist for the catholic children, the organizers and the volunteers. Fr. Joaquim Lobo was the main celebrant at the Eucharist. In his homily he gave a simple and beautiful message on who is poor for each one of us. He made each one reflect on who is poor for us and are we generously using our God-given talents for the welfare of the other and the poor, especially the needy and the marginalised?

The other children from various villages far and near came for the celebration by 9.00am. Around 270 children made their presence felt at the Auxilium centre. All the participants were provided with snacks and refreshments. Various creative games were organised for them in different stalls on the campus. The children enjoyed themselves thoroughly, trying their luck at different games. The stalls were managed by the Pre-novices of Pinguli, Youth of Don Bosco Parish, Community College girls and the volunteers from the community of "Emmaus disciples" who were present for the day.

The inaugural ceremony took place at 11:40 am. Mr. Ramchandra Nare was the chief guest for the function. Mrs. Sandhya Parab (Sarpanch), Miss Rachael (Leader of the Emmaus disciple), Mr. Shekhar Samant (Editor of "Tarun Bharat"), Fr. Albano sdb (Principal of the Junior College and Assistant Parish Priest) and Mr. Nare's family members and friends graced the occasion with their valuable presence. Mr. Nare, in his speech, emphasised the need to grow as good and honest human beings who would be remembered by society in future. He used the example of a candle to highlight the point of sacrificing one's life to spread light around us. He concluded his speech with an old Marathi song that speaks of the relationship between God and man. Sr. Vandana Malya gave an input



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

session on the theme of "Rights of the Child". Her session was quite interactive as she made the children aware of their rights which would help them grow up as responsible adults.

At 1.00 pm lunch was served, sponsored by Mr. Anand Sawant (a renowned person of Oros). The children enjoyed the food as it was tasty and well prepared. After some time of recreation, there was a group-dance competition, organised as the part of the entertainment. The children, organizing themselves in groups, had practiced a variety of dances and came decked up with their intricate hairstyles and colourful costumes. In between the various dances, spot prize items were conducted. The children were also divided into various groups for the group-games which they enjoyed to the full. Towards the end of the celebration the prizes for the winners were given by Sr. Priscilla Travasso, animator of Auxilium community. Sr. Priscilla narrated a story to make the children realise that each one of them is precious and loved by God. She also thanked the youth and volunteers for their valuable contribution. The youth and volunteers surprised everybody with their stunning dance performance at the end.

Miss Sneha Sutar, one of the participants, thanked each and every one who was behind this event to make it a success. All the gifts were sponsored

by Mrs. Jigisha Lulla. As the children left to return home, they not only carried a sweet packet and prizes won but also joyful memories for life. Even the youth who volunteered experienced joy in giving their time and energy to make the poor village children happy. It was an event organized by the contribution of many persons that was not only successful but also memorable.

**Pansora**

On 18th November 2017, we celebrated Children's Day at our campus. Around 200 children came for the celebration with a lot of enthusiasm and joy, hailing from the six villages of Ghora, Ardi, Zalabordi, Khristipura, Ashipura and Pansora. It was a sight to see them bubbling with joy. Mr. Nirav Patel from Pansora was the chief guest of the day. We began our programme with a short prayer, followed by a welcome dance and the prize distribution for the various activities conducted during the year. To make them happy, we had some cultural items during which the teachers too performed a dance for the children.

After the programme, Mrs. Aditi Pandit along with her team from Anand Childline made the children aware of their rights and how to protect themselves from being abused. Later we conducted party games for the children, after which they were offered snacks and gifts.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

At the conclusion of the celebration, the tuition teachers thanked the sisters in the name of the children, for organizing Children's Day in such an enjoyable way.

***Sulcorna***

November 14th is a very special day to every Indian child. Children are an important portion of our life. They give meaning and cheer to our life and mission. We, the sisters of Mornese Vihar celebrated Children's Day on 14th November 2017. We began this event by invoking Mary's blessings on our children, by praying the Rosary and with a meaningful Eucharist at 8:45am in the school. We thanked God for the very presence of our children who bring colour and meaning to our boarding. It's because of their presence that we have a mission and it's because of us that they have a future. This day was filled with lots of surprises for them. In the evening we put up few games at 4:30pm, it gave us immense joy to see the children enjoying to their heart's content. We also put up a short entertainment programme that surprised them and filled their hearts with joy and laughter. They cheered us with their lively noise. This day indeed was a memorable day for all our children and us.

The celebration of 140 years of our first missionary expedition added more beauty and meaning to this day. We began this celebration with a vigil service on 13th November. The

following Sunday 19th November we had a solemn Eucharist in Don Bosco chapel with Fr. Jacintho SDB as the main celebrant. It was beautiful to celebrate with the people. They loved and enjoyed every part of this celebration. After mass we served snacks. We came home with grateful hearts thanking God for all His blessings; especially for the gift of our six pioneer missionary sisters.

May God our Father use us all to spread His love and peace to the whole world.

### **CELEBRATION OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY EXPEDITION**

***Ahmednagar***

On 13 November 2017, we the Community of Laura Vicuna Niwas, Ahmednagar, got together to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first missionary expedition of the FMA to Latin America. We had a prayerful vigil service around the altar that was decorated with pictorial memories of our pioneer FMA missionaries. A missionary corner was prepared in the house with books, pictures and other items to highlight the 140th anniversary year of the departure of our first missionary sisters to Latin America.

The following day on 14 November, the Mass highlighted the departure of our first missionary sisters as well as the Children's Day celebration.



## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

A special prayer service on Mother Mazzarello and our first missionaries through a power point presentation was animated by Sr. Krupalata and Sr. Pushpa Parmar for the boarders and ACC girls. This was followed by a quiz round and the winners walked away with attractive prizes.

We kept up the missionary week by giving missionary Goodnights, supported by the power-point presentation of Mother Mazzarello's letters. To conclude the missionary week, the community once again got together and Sr. Teresa Plathara, our Animator, tested our knowledge with regards to our first missionaries through a quiz round, rapid fire round and jigsaw puzzles. Prizes were given to those who won the highest points.

### **Bableshwar**



14 November was a special day indeed, when we did remember our first missionaries. We had a beautiful prayer moment in the morning, highlighting the significance of those first steps towards growth.

The thanksgiving Eucharist was celebrated by our parish priest Fr. Abraham Rananaware, it was a meaningful moment for each of us as we sang God's praises for this initiative of foresight to expand.

The day had a note of thanksgiving, joy and celebration as we rejoiced that the shoots

extended beyond the ocean, this first mission ad gentes steps have reached Bableshwar, Maharashtra, India and we the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians now proclaim Christ to those around.

### **Carona & Caranzalem**

The communities of Auxilium Carona and Auxilium Caranzalem had a memorable evening at Carona on 13th November 2017, celebrating the 140th anniversary of the first missionary expedition of the FMA. The decked-up hall with the logo of the occasion was a fitting venue for the celebration. The evening began with a prayer moment, rendering thanks to God. The video-clips of our first missionary sisters gave us glimpses of their lives. We praised and thanked God for our six young, ardent and dynamic missionary sisters who sailed out to a new Continent to serve the young and the poor. We also recalled our first FMA missionary sisters who toiled in our own India and handed down to us their missionary ardor and zeal for the salvation of the young. The sisters of our Province who work as missionaries in other countries were remembered as well..

Our Carona boarders, through their melodious songs, conveyed to us the importance of being joyful missionaries wherever we work. Well animated games brought in a lot of fun and cheer. We concluded the evening's celebration with a fellowship meal followed by surprise gifts.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...****Dakor**

The month of October, dedicated to the missions and to the devotion of the Holy Rosary, reminds us to proclaim the Good News as Christians to those who do not know Christ. Mary the Queen of Evangelization and whom we honor as Our Lady of the Rosary, being the first disciple of Jesus, did God's will and went in haste to help her cousin Elizabeth and shared in the mission of Jesus the Messiah.

We began this month with zeal and enthusiasm for the missions, which this year was highlighted by the 140th anniversary of the first missionary expedition of the FMA to Uruguay in Latin America. The activities of the month were: animation of prayer, Rosary, and Spiritual reading on the lives of the pioneers of the first missionary expedition; study on Mother General's Circular No. 972 and the Message of Pope Francis for the World Mission Sunday 2014. Goodnights on different missionaries were given and we took up the initiative of sending wishes to the FMA missionaries of Mumbai Province working in different parts of the world.

The missionary month was also celebrated in the villages by praying the missionary Rosary in the Dakor society, Manjipura and Agarva, and

viewing the movie on St. Teresa of Child Jesus, the patron of the missions. These activities were enkindled a flame in our hearts to bear the light of Christ and His good News to the people around us.

The celebration of 140th anniversary of the first FMA missionary expedition began with the triduum. The Morning Prayer was well animated and in the evening we had spiritual reading on the theme. We began the solemn celebration with a meaningful vigil service. The specially animated Morning Prayer set the tone for the day during which a brief history of the first missionary expedition was read out. It was followed by the solemn Eucharistic celebration. The day was spent in thanksgiving to God for the gift of our missionaries past and present who made Christ known far and wide. We also felt a strong missionary impulse within ourselves to be missionaries wherever we are, whether in foreign lands or in our own land itself. At 10.00 am we had a celebration with the VEP staff, Educating Community and ITI students.

We began with a prayer followed by creative games and then distributed snacks to them. In the evening at 7.00 pm we had a celebration for the boarders. The prayer service was followed by a quiz during where they had to answer questions regarding the first missionary expedition. After dinner Sr. Elphina Rodrigues, local coordinator for the missions, conducted some games provided by the province and some more creative and interesting games on missions. This day was kept up as a day of praise and thanksgiving to God for the great spiritual achievements of our Institute that spread its wings, first to South America and later to the rest of the World. We reflected on being missionaries in our work place and mission so as to make known Christ and his unconditional love to the entire world.

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...*****Dahanu***

The morning liturgical celebration enkindled joy and thrill in our hearts as we united ourselves with the entire Institute in celebrating the great event of the 140th anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of the FMA. Festivities marked the day. We had a lively animation of the Eucharistic liturgy, thanking God for our audacious pioneers and imploring blessings on us that we too may be vivacious and zealous in the mission that we are presently carrying out. Even the Indian pasta we had at breakfast, added to our joy as we celebrated together at one table.

We had a wonderful day recalling and reliving the event of our first six pioneer missionaries setting forth towards their mission land. To make the experience more meaningful we went to the Dahanu seashore. Excitement and joy prevailed over us as we stepped into the Arabian Sea and

got into the boat at the Chikla port of Dahanu, remembering our pioneer missionaries who left from the port of Genoa. We too were six of us as they were! We relived their departure experience as our Animator Sr. Mariet Luckose wished each one of us in the boat Goodbye, while pointing towards the immense sea before us that we had yet to sail across!

It was truly a unique experience for us. We pray the Lord to imbue us too with that missionary zeal to proclaim God's love to all those we meet in our daily mission.

***Kalathur & Shirva***

The triduum for this event was well animated. This was followed by the vigil service on the 13th evening and the grand celebration on the 14th of November along with the sisters of the Shirva community. Together we had the prayer service which helped us to understand the life of our first missionary sisters and the challenges they faced in their mission in South America. Thanks to them who sacrificed everything and saw Jesus as their great treasure, we too want to be good missionaries wherever obedience has assigned us. After the celebration we shared lunch together and thanked God for the courage, daring and missionary zeal of our first FMA missionaries.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...*****Kasarkod***

The long awaited day finally dawned! We had been preparing for this celebration since the beginning of 2017, guided by the Mission General Councillor Sr. Alaide Deretti. We began the celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the first FMA Missionary Expedition with a triduum starting on 11th November 2017 when we highlighted the theme of the day during evening prayer. We thanked God and Mary Help of Christians for the missionary identity of our Institute and reflected on Constitution Art.1.

On the second day of the Triduum, during evening prayer, we reflected on Art.6. The altar was beautifully decorated, with a flex displaying the logo of the celebration and the pictures of the first 6 missionary sisters. Through their missionary life and ardour, they took the message of Christ and the spirit of Mornese across the oceans.

On the third day, the morning-prayer was specially animated. During adoration service we prayed for the life and vocation of all the FMA missionaries, that they may be missionaries of hope and joy. The vigil service made us recall the first 6 FMA missionaries, who notwithstanding their youthful age, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to fulfil the missionary mandate of Jesus: "Go out to the whole world". The symbolic offerings: Bible, Constitutions, Globe, Names of the 6 missionary sisters and a ship, enabled

us to rediscover the missionary fervour of the Institute and to reaffirm our commitment to be missionaries of hope and joy. The Eucharist was solemnized by Rev. Fr. Santan Gonzalves, Rector of the Capuchins of Lower Kasarkod. The Introduction for the occasion highlighted the significance of the day and the celebration. The members of the Educating Community, the children, helpers and parents were all present to make the occasion memorable. The boards were encouraged to read and get to know about the missionary sisters of our province and each day they prayed for and spoke about them during the 'Goodnight'.

May the celebration of this important event in the life of our Institute encourage us to be missionaries of Hope and Joy in the peripheries of our own towns and Cities.

***Keshnand***

We kept up the triduum in preparation for the 140th anniversary of the first FMA missionary expedition, beginning on 11th November 2017, by highlighting the theme of each day during the Lectio Divina, praying and reflecting over it. On this first day, our Animator Sr. Alka Almeida carried the Word of God together with the words "GO", symbolizing the missionary command of Jesus who commissioned his disciples to go to all the nations to proclaim the good news.

On 12th November 2017 we paid tribute to the first missionary sisters who went to the mission



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

land of South America. The globe was put in the sanctuary together with the symbol of a ship, a lamp and the picture of our first missionary sisters. The captions "Da Mihi Animas" and "Mission Ad Gentes" signified the ardent zeal of our first sisters to travel to far away countries without any specific preparation. The display of the words "Send Me" expressed our inner disposition to be missionaries wherever we are.

On the 13th November 2017, the reflection over the words of our Pope Francis "The mission at the heart of the Christian faith" helped us to celebrate this day in a meaningful manner. On this day we remembered all our departed missionary sisters and offered our prayers for them.

14th November 2017 was indeed a happy day to celebrate the great event of the 140th Anniversary of First FMA missionary expedition. We had a meaningful prayer service together with our children, offering different symbols which expressed the significance of the missionary impulse of the first missionaries. We thanked God for the missionary dimension of our Institute and prayed for the grace to be filled with same zeal and ardor of our first missionary sisters.

**Madanthyar**

With joy and gratitude we rejoice in the Lord as we celebrate the 140 years of the great missionary expedition of our six sisters who set sail to South America. It was on this day that these enthusiastic, young and courageous FMA under the guidance of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello left for Uruguay. The flame of God's love, the desire to make Him known and loved to serve Him in the poor was their driving force which led them to leave their beloved land and loved ones to venture into the unknown.

To celebrate this feast in a worthy manner we kept the missionary week from 16-21st



November. During this week each Sr. animated the prayer moment and gave the 'Goodnight' on their life. These days of preparation helped us to be more zealous and joyful missionaries where we are. This also made us aware to cultivate the flame of fire within us. On 21st November we kept the memory of 140th year of first missionary expedition and we began the celebration with a vigil service. Next morning the Morning Prayer was animated in a creative way. The solemn thanksgiving Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Allwyn D'Souza. Later we enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by the community sisters. It was indeed a day of joy and thanksgiving.

**Mundhwa**

During the months June to November 2017, the Community of Eusebia Welfare Centre, Mundhwa, kept up their missionary fervor through the reading of the Missionary Circulars sent by the General Councilor for the Missions, Rev. Sr. Alaide Deretti. During our Morning and Evening Prayers, spontaneous intercessions were often made for missionaries of our Institute and for the fruitfulness of missionary work around the world.

A "Missionary Corner" was set up midway up the staircase leading to the Chapel, with pictures of our new missionaries and other

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

messages to remind us to pray for this intention. We also learnt new hymns on the theme of the evangelization and the mission from our hymnals "Pray Sing" and With Joyful Lips" which we sang often during this period. These initiatives have increased our LOVE for the missionaries and our zeal for the spread of the Kingdom of God in the World, which we hope will continue over the months and years ahead.

The preparation for the 140th Anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of the F.M.A. enthused us to work in our own Community with greater commitment and dedication as we too are missionaries in our own place of work and wherever we are sent.

From the 11th to the 13th November we kept up the Triduum with animation of prayer moments and for the actual day of the commemoration we had invited some of our friends and neighbours.

November 14th 2017, the great day of the commemoration of the first missionary expedition of the FMA saw us all enthusiastic and grateful. The Morning Prayer Moment and Eucharistic Celebration were well animated with special commentaries and suitable hymns as we recalled that long ago 14th November 1877 when our first 6 FMA missionaries left the port of Genoa in Italy to set sail across the Atlantic Ocean to bring the love of Christ and Salesian

education to the people of South America. We celebrated the Mass for the Propagation of the Faith.

In the evening at 7.00pm, we had the main celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of the F.M.A. We were happy to have with us around 15 Catholics (men, women and children) from the families in our neighbourhood. Our animator Sr. Wilma De Souza gave a short introduction about the Celebration. Rev. Fr. Richard D'Silva SDB presided over the celebration and was invited to read the words of Don Bosco as they appeared in the prayer service. Through commentaries, reading and hymns, we recalled the great event that took place on this day 140 years ago that launched our FMA institute out of Europe into the American Continent and from there to all the other continents over the years. Our friends who participated in this celebration were amazed at the marvelous event and joined us in thanking God for His Fidelity, great support in our First Missionary venture. The celebration in Chapel continued in our Community room where we all enjoyed a delicious meat burger, a hot cup of soup and a sweet laddoo. Colourful rosaries were distributed to all the participants of this celebration as they left us to return home.

### ***Mundhwa celebrates Pioneers' day***

22nd November 2017 was a day of thanksgiving and celebration for all the Indian Provinces. It was the day our pioneer FMA missionaries landed on the Indian sub-continent to plant the seed of the FMA mission on Indian soil. Sr. Smitha Gonsalves animated the morning-prayer, recalling the event of the landing of our first 6 FMA Missionaries in India. To commemorate the 95 years of FMA presence in India, during the Adoration service, we thanked and praised God for our Congregation, which was an inspiration that Don Bosco received through

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

the intervention of our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians. In His goodness may God Almighty continue to sustain us and through Mary's intercession, may we continue to be signs and bearers of God's love for the needy youngsters of today. May Mother Mary give us all missionary zeal to do good wherever we are placed, for the spread of His Kingdom.

### Wadala



The two communities of Wadala - Auxilium and MYC - joyfully and fervently celebrated the 140th anniversary of the first FMA missionary expedition. The triduum helped us to prepare ourselves better for the historic day. Through meaningful initiatives, especially reflecting on the letters of Mother Mazzarello, we prepared ourselves for this special day. The Eucharist was well animated and all joined to make this a significant moment. The grand breakfast was provided at MYC while the Auxilium community served high tea and conducted games with prizes for the winners. The day concluded with the praying of the Rosary which was offered for the missionaries toiling in the six continents.

### Nashik

#### ► Reliving the missionary spirit

On 14th November 2017 a historic day was celebrated and remembered with lots of

sentiments of joy and gratitude in SHTC along with the community of Maria Vihar. We all gathered together for a prayer moment in the evening which was beautifully and prayerfully animated. But before this the Novices enacted the departure of the first missionaries to Uruguay, which was very touching and heartfelt as it recalled the historic moments of our Institute. Sr. Salome D'Souza, the Novice mistress gave rosaries and medals of Our Lady Help of Christians as a sign that Mary is the foremost missionary who is our guiding star along the way as she was for the first missionaries. At the end of the prayer moment Sr. Philomena D'Souza, the animator of Maria Vihar community gave us a inspirational message. After that spiritual food we had entertainment through games and refreshments. Sr. Surekha Gabru FMA organized different games on the missionaries for the Sisters and even all the Novices participated wholeheartedly and enjoyed the missionary atmosphere. It was a really wonderful and memorable day for each one of us. The following interview was conducted with the novices who prepared for this day with immense effort from 7th-14th November 2017.

► What were the initiatives taken to prepare for this great day?

*First of all we were all happy to be part of this big historic celebration. We prayed for the missionaries and for more vocations during our prayer moments, we also studied and presented the life of the first six missionaries, wrote letters to missionaries, watched the missionary films, and the Goodnights were based on the letters of Mother Mazzarello.*

► What did you like during this missionary week?

*During this week the Sisters were giving Goodnights on Mother Mazzarello's letters which I liked the most. Her letters were simple*

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

*but her heart wrenching words helped me to be courageous and encourage others. I also liked the first six missionaries' lives. Though they were very attached to their homeland and dear ones yet they went to their missions willingly and joyfully.*  
-- Sr. Sangeeta Marvi

➤ Were you inspired by any missionary sisters?

*Its shoots extended beyond the ocean... this dynamic theme of our missionary week had a great impact on me while I read the life of our first missionary sisters. I was very touched because their lives were full of struggle and sacrifices. Everything they did was only for the love of God. This helped them remain cheerful. Personally, the life of Sr. Angela Cassulo inspired me a lot. Most of her lifetime she was in charge of the kitchen but with great love and simplicity she carried on her work and spread the fragrance of the Mornese spirit. She never expected to become a missionary but God has his own plans for each one of us. It made me realize to stay always in the plan of God, expect surprises from Him and be open to His plan.* -- Sr. Jennifer Macwan

➤ In this missionary week which initiatives impressed you?

*During this missionary week I was greatly impressed by the initiative we took of writing letters to the missionaries, as Mother Mazzarello did, to encourage the sisters who are in far mission lands. Writing letters to missionaries made me*



*realize that through words we can make such a great impact on people's lives. By writing letters to missionaries I contributed some light to the lives of those missionaries who are spreading the light of Christ. We had an awesome week with lots of fun and memories. Let us give our best just like our first missionaries lived for Jesus and for the youth. Let us we live for Christ jabtak hai jaan (as long as we are alive).* -- Sr. Prezy Parmar

➤ You watched the documentary movie about the mission life of Don Albert de Augustine called End of the World (fin del mundo) during this week of preparation. Tell us what in that movie struck you the most?

*During this celebration for the 140th years of the first missionary expedition we had a week preparation in which we read the letters of Mother Mazzarello, watched videos and documentary films on the missions. One of the short movies on missions which I liked was on the life of Don Albert de Augustine who was a Salesian priest and a missionary in South America. He was a passionate mountaineer, explorer, geographer, ethnographer, photographer and cinematographer. Through his talents and hobbies he discovered the beauty of God and helped the indigenous people to use their own hobbies and talents for God's greater glory and the salvation of souls.* -- Sr. Khusboo Vasava

➤ What was your experience listening to the letters of Mother Mazzarello to the missionaries?

*During this missionary week I was very much touched by Mother Mazzarello letters. While the letters were being read during the Goodnights, I felt that Mother Mazzarello was personally writing to me. Her words and prophecies really touched my heart. They convey Mother Mazzarello's deep love for her daughters (FMA) and for the girls. I felt God speaking to us through her.* -- Sr. Rani Pandit

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

➤ What message do you take for yourself from Mother Mazzarello's letters to the first missionaries?

*I was very much struck by the quotation from the letters of Mother Mazzarello "Be cheerful and don't be so afraid of your defects and of not being able to correct them all at once. Little by little, with the goodwill to fight them never making peace with them once the Lord makes them known to you, do your part to correct yourself" (L17). And also the prayer service which was on 14th November 2017 on the 140th anniversary of the first missionary expedition FMA the question which was asked, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Here I am send me!" I felt there is a strong message for each FMA and especially to us the novices who are preparing ourselves for our first yes are we ready to say wholeheartedly, "Here I am send me"! As our first zealous missionaries said, it is indeed a calling to set ourselves on fire because the missions call for responsibility. -- Sr. Benzina Vayaghar*

➤ What struck you the most during this missionary week?

*During the missionary week I was struck by the Goodnights which were taken from the letters of Mother Mazzarello. As if Mother is telling me to be a missionary and reminding me to be cheerful. It was also a great joy to know Mother Mazzarello and the life of the first missionary sisters who were so full of life, loved God and loved others. -- Sr. Vencila Dimekar*

➤ Are you ready to go as a missionary?

*I will never forget these words of Mary Mazzarello. These words were really meant by her. When I heard the letters during the Goodnights, while reading their lives, watching the life of missionaries and acting out the first expedition, made me realize how the sisters might have felt. This one week experience woke up my inner*



*person making me to prepare myself for the missions. -- Sr. Jesmine Fernandes*

➤ What is your advice to aspiring missionaries?

*Pope Francis says, "Life is strengthened by giving it and is weakened by isolation and by comfort. It grows and matures in the measures in which we give for the life of others". Our missionary sisters did the same what Pope Francis says. They gave their life selflessly for their missions. Let us be a missionary every day wherever we are. -- Sr. Akshitha Lobo*

The one week missionary preparation for the great day of 14th November 2017 brought great joy that revived the missionary flame in the depths of their hearts and strong missionary impulse in SHTC and the Maria Vihar Community.

## OROS

It was a thrilling experience for all the inmates at Auxilium Girls' Promotion Centre, when we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the first missionary expedition of our sisters to Uruguay in Latin America. We kept up the triduum in preparation for this great event taking place in our Institute all over the world. Our recipients were given information about the event, our first FMA missionaries, who they are, what they are, where they come from and where

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

they go .....likewise we showed them pictures for ...seeing is believing!. Every sister had the opportunity to explain this event to the girls during her turn of Goodnight. With prayer and reflection, we celebrated the daily Eucharist. The children were eager to know if at present there were any sisters

going to the missions; they would have liked to go with them. It being Children's Day and also the birthday of Sr.Iona Barretto, Rev.Fr. Clive Telles, the Rector and Principal of Don Bosco High School Oros, gave a beautiful introduction in appreciation of the work and the time devoted by Sr. Iona in the pastoral work and in the field of Education. The Nursing students had their share of celebration in the morning. The girls took part in a variety of games organized by the staff. At the very start they were given a



warm welcome with aarati and flowers. Sr. Sera Menezes had a meaningful story of two little birds in her hands that showed how protective and caring our parents are towards their children and now as the nursing students are about to step into the second phase of their practical experience, it is just like getting prepared to fly on their own, ready to take up risks and face the challenges of the new world that they are about to step into. Snacks were served and later, the lunch too was a delicious and sumptuous meal. There were gifts galore for the winners. The celebration continued in the evening with the boarders and once again a special meal was served to mark this important event of a triple celebration.

### Jokes...

Mrs. Fernandes : Has your baby learned to speak yet?

Mrs. Roberts: Yes. We are now teaching her to keep quiet.

Willie: Daddy, I don't like the cheese with holes.

Father: Eat the cheese and leave the holes on your plate.



**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND**

**O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

**Christmas Celebration ...**



**Ahmednagar**



**Baroda**



**Wadala NCP**



**Pali Hill**



**Goa**



**Bombay**



**Kopar khairane**



**MYC, Wadala**

## PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



## O MY GOOD MOTHER...

## MM Mumbai goes Green



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." - *Mother Teresa.*

We the Sisters of MM Mumbai Province have taken small steps to GO GREEN.

Here are some of them

1. The Province Eco- team: In the Province we have formed an eco team and in each community we have an eco coordinator who helps in the eco activities.
2. Segregation: We segregate the dry and wet waste, biodegradable and the non-biodegradable waste.
3. Compost: Compost is done in pits, old dustbins and the school students play an active role.
4. Use of aluminum containers/tin foil: While travelling many Sisters avoid using aluminum containers/tin foil instead they carry a steel tiffin box.
5. Jute bags: Sisters have consciously made an option for a jute bag over a plastic bag whenever possible.
6. Use of A4 size papers: LCD projection is replacing the use of paper. Care is taken to use both sides of A4 paper to avoid wastage.
7. Aerated drinks: These are consciously avoided.

These are only the first steps. To go green means forming a habit, it is not a choice it is a need.

*Pope Francis quotes, "People have slapped nature in the face." Let us in this New Year 2018 make a conscious choice to GO GREEN.*

## Advice of Mary Mazzarello



1. A filial love between animators and sisters
2. Affection among Sisters
3. Joyful Receptions together
4. All take part in the domestic works
5. To leave one work and take up another (at least during holidays) and to lend oneself in all the urgent works of the house.
6. The availability of 'I'll go' as soon as a need is expressed or seen.
7. Being spontaneous yet reserved in behavior; delicacy in speech
8. Silence well observed after Night prayers until next morning.
9. To appreciate the annual Strenna given by the Rector Major.

## KEEP ON LAUGHING...



**Shankar:** Mother, can I have Rs. 10 for the man crying outside?

**Mother:** Sure, Shankar. What is the man crying about?

**Shankar:** He's crying, 'Salty peanuts for Rs.10

PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND



O MY GOOD MOTHER...

## Gratitude to our Missionaries

*MM Mumbai remembers our Missionaries with love and gratitude*

<b>SR. DOLORES ALPHONSO</b>	<i>Sudan</i>
<b>SR. MARY CHACKO</b>	<i>South Africa</i>
<b>SR. MARY CHERIAN</b>	<i>Africa East</i>
<b>SR. SERVITAS DA SILVA</b>	<i>Sri Lanka</i>
<b>SR. ANITA EDAYURAMVELIL</b>	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<b>SR. SUSAN FERNANDES</b>	<i>Kenya</i>
<b>SR. TERESA FERNANDES</b>	<i>Kenya</i>
<b>SR. MARIE ANTONIETA MONTEIRO</b>	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<b>SR. ALEYAMMA OOPPOOTHIL</b>	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<b>SR. ANNAMMA PARACKAL</b>	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<b>SR. LENA FLORINE PINTO</b>	<i>USA</i>
<b>SR. FATIMA REGO</b>	<i>Ivory Coast</i>
<b>SR. BLANCIE SAMBRYA</b>	<i>Cambodia</i>
<b>SR. RITA MASCARENHAS</b> (NEW MISSIONARY)	



## Salesian Saints

### SALESIAN SAINTS (JAN - FEB)

➤ 15th January : Bl. Louis Variara- A saint who is noted for his mercy



22nd January: Bl. Laura Vicuna- An adolescent who offered herself as a victim to bring her mother back to the way of salvation

➤ 24th January : St. Francis of Sales- a saint of divine love, humble & sweet



30th January: Bl. Bronislas Markiewicz- a lover of poor and orphaned youth

➤ 31 January: ST. JOHN BOSCO – father and teacher of youngsters



7 February: Bl. Pius IX: a supporter of Don Bosco's works

➤ 9 February: Bl Eusebia Palomino- the poor Sister who became rich in the eyes of God



25 February: Sts. Louis Versiglia and Callistus Caravario- became martyrs to save the purity of youngsters

**PLEASE HOLD ME BY THE HAND****O MY GOOD MOTHER...**

## Remembering our dear departed

**POWERFUL INTERCESSORS IN HEAVEN, YOU HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR US ...**

***MM Mumbai remembers you with love ...***

1.	Sr. Evelina Fernandes	21st June 1989
2.	Sr. Bertha Sperrfechter	4th December 1991
3.	Sr. Anna Pereira	7th May 1996
4.	Sr. Alice Correa	9th June 1996
5.	Sr. Mary Joseph	2nd February 1998
6.	Sr. Gina Azzolini	27th November 1998
7.	Sr. Rose Braganza	8th February 2000
8.	Sr. Anna Gomes	5th May 2000
9.	Sr. Lutgarde Pereira	21st November 2001
10.	Sr. Alzira Albuquerque	18th April 2002
11.	Sr. Clementina Lobo	14th December 2002
12.	Sr. Constance D'Cruz	28th November 2003
13.	Sr. Marie Dulla Cardozo	10 March 2004
14.	Sr. Camilla Tagliabue	6th August 2004
15.	Sr. Margaret D'Couth	19th August 2007
16.	Sr. Bertha D'Gama	6th May 2008
17.	Sr. Mary Drago	11th June 2008
18.	Sr. Walentyna Czernick	18th January 2009
19.	Sr. Frances Domingo	12th February 2009
20.	Sr. Saturtina De Souza	20th June 2009
21.	Sr. Sylvia Fernandes	13th August 2009
22.	Sr. Maude Hale	12th September 2009
23.	Sr. Judy Aranha	13th September 2011
24.	Sr. Virginia Marchetti	6th October 2012
25.	Sr. Helen Fernandes	8th December 2012
26.	Sr. Juliana D'Souza	28th July 2013
27.	Sr. Lydia Dias	6th May 2014
28.	Sr. Nora Barretto	23rd February 2016
29.	Sr. Mary Vaz	26th August 2016
30.	Sr. Philomena D'Souza	4th October 2016
31.	Sr. Flida Morris	11th November 2016
32.	Sr. Ethelvina Rodrigues	26th November 2016
33.	Sr. Christina Galus	19th January 2017
34.	Sr. Gladys D'Souza	20th May 2017
35.	Sr. Edvige Nazareth	28th July 2017

*May you rest in peace, Amen*

# AYM YOUTH FEST 2017



# FAITH FEST 2017



- For more information about us log on to Province Website: [www.fmamumbai.org](http://www.fmamumbai.org)
- Province Blog: [www.fmainb.org](http://www.fmainb.org)
- Province Email: [mazzarelloinb@gmail.com](mailto:mazzarelloinb@gmail.com)
- Facebook: Mary Mazzarello13

# HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE...

## For the New Year 2018 !

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? If not, there's still time, and Pope Francis has some ideas for you.

These are the ten things that he called upon Vatican employees to do:

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."
10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."

It's a good list: it's clearly rooted in Catholic teachings, but presented in a way that non-Catholics can embrace

And I think that all of us can find on this list at least one or two resolutions that speak to areas in which we really need to grow.

***Hope this helps, and happy New Year!***



We,

**Sr. Hilda Braganza**

**Sr. Melissa D'Souza**

**Sr. Antonette Rebello**

**Sr. Lavita Sequeira**



along with

**Mr. Cruz Fernandes  
(Genesis Arts)**

**Ms. Suvarna Mulewar  
(Purple Arts)**

**Wish each of you  
a Happy and Peaceful  
New Year 2018**

**We sincerely thank you dear  
Sisters and friends  
for contributing to  
MM Mumbai Voices.**

**May God bless you !**

