



CHIRAG
ST. JOSEPH'S PROVINCE
KATHERINE NIVAS, DHAR, M.P.

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CHRISTMAS STORY - PAPA PANOV



It was Christmas Eve and although it was still afternoon, lights had begun to appear in the shops and houses of the little Russian village. Excited children scurried indoors and sounds of chatter and laughter escaped from closed shutters. Old Papa Panov, the village shoemaker, heard the sounds of happiness, the bright lights and the faint but delicious smells of Christmas cooking reminded him of past Christmas times when his wife had still been alive and his own children little. Now they had gone. His usually cheerful face, with the little laughter wrinkles behind the round steel spectacles, looked sad now. But he went back indoors and set a pot of coffee to heat then, with a sigh, he settled in his big armchair. Papa Panov did not often read, but tonight he pulled down the big old family Bible and, slowly tracing the lines with one forefinger, he read again the Christmas story. He read how Mary and Joseph, tired by their journey to Bethlehem, found no room for them at the inn, so that Mary's little baby was born in the cowshed. "Oh, dear, oh, dear!" exclaimed Papa Panov, "if only they had come here!

I would have given them my bed and I could have covered the baby with my patchwork quilt to keep him warm." He read on about the wise men who had come to see the baby Jesus, bringing him splendid gifts. Papa Panov's face fell. "I have no gift that I could give him," he thought sadly. Then his face brightened. He put down the Bible, got up and stretched his long arms to the shelf high up. He took down a small, dusty box and opened it. Inside was a perfect pair of tiny leather shoes. Yes, they were as good as he had remembered -- the best shoes he had ever made. "I should give him these," he decided. He was feeling tired now, in no time Papa Panov was fast asleep and dreamt that someone was in his room and he knew at once, as one does in dreams, who the person was. It was Jesus. "You have been wishing that you could see me, Papa Panov." he said kindly, "then look for me tomorrow. It will be Christmas Day and I will visit you. But look carefully, for I shall not tell you who I am."

When at last Papa Panov awoke, the bells were ringing out and a thin light was filtering through the shutters. "Bless my soul!" said Papa Panov. "It's Christmas Day!" He stood up and stretched himself for he was rather stiff. Then his face filled with happiness as he remembered his dream. Would he be a little baby, as at that first Christmas? Would he be a grown man, a carpenter -- or the great King that he is, God's Son? He must watch carefully the whole day through so that he recognized him however he came. Papa Panov opened the shop door, letting in a thin stream of cold air. "Come in!" he shouted across the street cheerily. "Come in and have some hot coffee to keep out the cold!" The sweeper looked up, scarcely able to believe his ears. He was only too glad to put down his broom and come into the warm room. His old clothes steamed gently in the heat of the stove and he clasped both red hands **round** the comforting warm mug as



he drank. Papa Panov watched him with satisfaction, but every now and then his eyes strayed to the window. It would never do to miss his special visitor. "Expecting someone?" the sweeper asked at last. So, Papa Panov told him about his dream. "Well, I hope he comes," the sweeper said, "you've given me a bit of Christmas cheer I never expected to have. I'd say you deserve to have your dream come true." Papa Panov no one. But he was mistaken. Someone was coming.

The girl walked so slowly and quietly, hugging the walls of shops and houses, that it was a while before he noticed her. She looked very tired and she was carrying something. As she drew nearer, he could see that it was a baby, wrapped in a thin shawl. There was such sadness in her face and in the pinched little face of the baby, that Papa Panov's heart went out to them. "Won't you come in," he called, stepping outside to meet them. "You both need a warm seat by the fire and a rest." The young mother let him shepherd her indoors and to the comfort of the armchair. She gave a big sigh of relief. "I'll warm some milk for the baby," Papa Panov said, "I've had children of my own -- I can feed her for you." He took the milk from the stove and carefully fed the baby from a spoon, warming her tiny feet by the stove at the same time.

"She needs shoes," the cobbler said. But the girl replied, "I can't afford shoes, I've got no husband to bring home money. I'm on my way to the next village to get work." A sudden thought flashed through Papa Panov's mind. He remembered the little shoes he had looked at last night. But he had been keeping those for Jesus. He looked again at the cold little feet and made up his mind. "Try these on her," he said, handing the baby and the shoes to the mother. The beautiful little shoes were a perfect fit. The girl smiled happily and the baby gurgled with pleasure. All too soon the winter dusk fell. When Papa Panov next went to the door and strained his eyes, he could no longer make out the passers-by. As they passed, each whispered, "Didn't you see me, Papa Panov?" "Who are you?" he called out, bewildered. Then another voice answered him. It was the voice from his dream -- the voice of Jesus. "I was hungry and you fed me," he said. "I was naked and you clothed me. I was cold and you warmed me. I came to you today in every one of those you helped and welcomed." Then all was quiet and still. Only the sound of the big clock ticking. A great peace and happiness seemed to fill the room, overflowing Papa Panov's heart until he wanted to burst out singing and laughing and dancing with joy. "So he did come after all!" was all that he said.

Source: <https://americanliterature.com/author/leo-tolstoy/short-story/papa-panovs>

Dear Sisters and Friends, at this Christmas let's yearn to find needy Jesus in our own little and personal ways. Wish you all a very happy Christmas 2022 and Grace filled New Year 2023.



MARIA BHAWAN CONVENT

“Winter days get colder, Snow gets whiter
Light gets brighter, Sweater gets bigger
Book gets thicker, Blanket gets larger
Chimney gets hotter and
Our Hearts get closer to each of you”



COMMUNITY: Dear sisters keeping you all close to our hearts, sending you the warmest greetings of peace love, joy and season of Christmas. The lived experience of Maria Bhavan community is a joy of Listening and Walking together as people of God, through our communion with God and one another, participating in the life of sharing, caring and fulfilling the mission of Christ in Dhani. The life of Maria Bhavan is going on well by the grace of God. Here I would like to mention few information of our community. On 8th October Sr. Archana's Ruby Jubilee was celebrated in Provincial House Dhar. Sr. Mridula attended workshops on Justice Coalition of Religious (JCOR) from October 14th to 16th at Prernasadan organized by Indore CRI. The community sisters had picnic to Bhopal 23rd and 24th October. Sr. Rita, Provincial Councilor attended the GPR meeting in Germany from 9th to 17th November and returned home safely with all the good news of GPR procedure and greetings from all sisters. Dr. Sr. Reena attended course in Udaipur Rajasthan on the updates of Tuberculosis and Asthma from 10th to 13th November 2022. We were very happy to welcome Sr. Tresa and Sr. Theresa Marie from St. Mary's Province who visited our community and stayed with us for a day.

The Lived experiences of Synodality in the Church and Ministries:

The activities of the church give an opportunity to participate and journey together towards the mission. We had few celebrations where families took the initiative and divided the responsibility and all were involved one or the other. The celebrations such as Holy Eucharist, Novena, Mission Sunday, Christ the King Feast etc. The mission Sunday and Christ the King feast were celebrated in a grand manner; where all people could participate and became the part of it. The sisters of the community on Sundays go for family visits in the surrounding villages; such as Chiktiyavad, Sankota, Dhani etc. visiting the families are experience of being one with people in families, listening to their good and not so good times of life; it is a participative presence in being with people in the mission of the church.

CATHOLIC HOSPITAL, DHANI

The ministry of the Hospital is reaching out and help the people holding them all and journeying towards wholesome healing. We experience the collaboration of the staff and support staff in different ways and that helps



us to function well in the Hospital. We too visit the staffs' family and spend time with them on Sundays. This year the Hospital has taken the new efforts to start a course called "Nursing Assistance Course" in collaboration with AASHRAY-Academy of Community Training in Rajasthan. The duration of the course is one year. We have 13 students who study and are active in learning all necessary aspects of caring for the patients. On 17th of November, we celebrated the Hospital Day and shared our happiness with all the hospital staff.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER GIRLS' BOARDING

The boarding children are very active, full of life and energetic with their smiling faces. They all are happy and doing well in their studies. We have formed the groups of boarders by animating them for the leadership quality and participate in all the activities. In November Children's Day was celebrated, Sr. Archana's feast and Hostel Day was celebrated with holy mass in the morning and cultural program in the evening.

SOCIAL WORK

The social work is functioning well in collaboration with our society projects, IDSSS projects and World Vision NGO projects. As usual the tailoring and computer classes are going on well and now working with two new projects - Pregnant Mother and Child care project and Seeds distribution for the farmers. The team of Dhani social work was invited to Udainagar, diocese of Indore to introduce the function of Co-operative Society it was a great opportunity to learn from the project. Through the IDSSS we had few programs like training programs for farmers on organic farming, health camp, IGP[Income Generating Programme] and exposure programme. The World Vision provided some basic needs to our villagers who are helpless and are very poor; especially caring for them to fight against the cold in winter.

ST. JOSEPH'S H. S. SCHOOL, DHANI

Srs. Rita and Mridula, continue their ministry in St. Joseph's H. S. School, Dhani. We wish to share with you the spirit of sportsmanship in the school among the budding young students. The school held the annual sports meet between 28th November to 1st December 2022. The four houses, Red, Green, Yellow and Blue were bifurcated into Sub junior, Junior and Senior Category of Boys' and Girls' teams. Each group played four different games and competed between each other. The little ones became the cheer voice for the senior and the Senior students for their young ones. At times the little ones enjoyed the Kabaddi game so much that they even forgot their own group and began cheering the winning Team and then off course the senior students signaled not to do so; but they eventually forgot those signals. It was such great spirit of game. It was truly an experience of being true to their simplicity and human quality flourishes among them.



They cared for the little and grown-up injured students in games with first aid, they perfectly followed the first aid procedure to the best of their capacity. The students participated with respect for each other, care for one another and cheer for the winning teams. We truly learnt great lessons of life from the simple children of our village folk. Rev. Fr. Santosh, the manager of the school, Bro. Rijo, the Regent along with Mr. Manoj the Boarding master as well the School Teachers trained the students in all the games and students were at their best in basketball, volley ball, tug of war, kabaddi, dodge ball, throw ball etc. Dear sisters wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year 2023. May the Christmas season and New Year fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.



HAPPY FEAST and BOARDING DAY



Prenatal Nutrition



Sweet visit of Srs. Treasa and Theresa Marie



**"Nursing Assistance Course"
1ST Batch**



SEVA NILAYA , ARA GATE



December month is the most wonderful time of the year, since it's Christmas season. Christmas is forever, not just for one day. It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. The cold wind and the Christmas air from the Northern part of India Jharkhand comes with the joyful tone Jingle bell, Jingle bell and wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023. In August, we harvested paddy and sisters joined along with the co-workers. Since our transformer got burned, we had dark night in the month of September but dark night has vanished, as we have new generator. The community celebrated the teacher's day with prayer service and in the evening presented the short programme. The feast of Onam was celebrated on 11th of September. On 18th September Sr. Stella, our Provincial, Sr. Helen and Sr. Mridula went to Odissa to look for the possibility of a new mission in Cuttack Bhubaneswar Archdiocese. We were glad to celebrate Sr. Stella our Provincial's feast day in the community of Seva Nilaya Ara Gate, during her flying visit to us. Dr. Sr. Reena came for her meeting and visited us on 26th September. On 27th September we gave farewell to our candidates and they travelled to Khandwa along with Sr. Annemarie and Sr. Vidya on 28th of September. It is winter season time of flowers in the garden and different types of crops and vegetables in the field.

Pastoral Work

Srs. Prabha, Asha, Madhuri and Sr. Anamika teach catechism in the church every Sunday after the Mass. As well Sr. Prabha , Sr. Madhuri and Sr. Anamika faithfully go to decorate the Altar every Saturday and feast day. Sr. Helen is in charge of the Mahila Sang and Sr. Anne Marie is in charge of the Youth. Mahila Diwas was celebrated on 28th of August before that they had one day recollection and confession. Third Jahan Youth Meet was arranged in Mahuadanr for the youth of Jharkhand from 2nd – 5th October 2022, the Apostolic Nuncio of the holy see Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli was welcomed along with our Bishops . After the 2years of gap we celebrated St. Francis Feast as our Parish Feast on 16 of October. On 23rd October 61 catechism children went to crusvir rally at Ulihatu. From 6 Parishes children had joined in this rally. Catechism teachers had prepared our children for the Quiz and Speech Competition and they got 1st prize for the quiz and 2nd prize for the Speech. The sisters are in charge of different groups of BCC [Basic Christian Community] and they regularly animate the groups. Ranchi Diocese gladly and prayerfully in long procession celebrated Christ the King Feast on 20th November.



Seva Nilaya Hospital

"To keep the body in good health is a duty... Otherwise, we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear". – Buddha. In the Health centre we have less Out Patients (OPD) and in Patients (IP). People seem to be healthy. We are also happy to thank our provincial and team for their support especially for the new Generator, new (CBC) Complete blood count machine and new computer for Seva Nilaya health centre. We celebrated Hospital Day on 17th of November. We had Holy Mass at 10.30 a.m., main celebrant was Fr. Anand Capuchin and Fr. Santosh Capuchin the parish priest. After the mass we welcomed the guest and there after we had tea and delicious snacks.

KATHERINE ACADEMY, ARA GATE, RANCHI

Teacher's Day- "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." We celebrated teacher's day on 5th September to honour our teachers for their hard work. Students expressed their gratitude for their teachers by performing beautiful cultural programs.

Health and Hygiene Program

"A calm mind brings inner strength and self – confidence, so that's very important for good health." - Dalai Lama. On 26th Sep 2022, a health program was conducted by Dr. Sr. Reena. All students were gathered in the school premises. To begin with, Manager Sr. Helen welcomed Dr. Sr. Reena with a bouquet of flowers and Sr. Asha the Principal introduced Sister to the staff and students. This program was basically on First Aid. She told students that First Aid is an immediate care given to an injured or sudden ill person. She told that how we can determine unconscious person by the ABC method. She also demonstrated to students, how it works. She gave brief information about balanced diet for good health.

Seminar was very interesting; students actively participated and they also asked number of questions to Dr. Sr. Reena and she cleared their doubts. The program was ended by votes of thanks by the School Head girl, Sharon Lakra.



Art and Craft Activity was held on 21st October 2022, for Diwali festival, Diwali decorations competitions were held - Diya decorations for class IV and V, poster making for class III, Pot decoration for class VI and Classroom decoration for VII and VIII. Rangoli is a traditional form that brightens up an occasion and is believed to be the bringer of good luck. The students had Inter – House competition organized on 22nd October 2022. Innovation and creativity are the words that best describes their efforts.

The principal gave her blessings and best wishes to the students. Fancy dress competition was held for the pre-primary students. For entertainment sports activities were organized for the students, the activities were – A Chocolate picking up, Balloon Race, Frog Race, Two-Legged Race, 100 Meter race. Students actively participated and enjoyed the day. At the end for the refreshment sweets were distributed to the students. Sports activity "When people throw stones at you, you turn them into Milestones." - Sachin Tendulkar "The key is not the will to win. Everybody has that. It is the will to prepare to win that is important." With this spirit Katherine Academy organized three days sports activity program for the rising sportsmen of tomorrow from 15th to 17th Nov 2022. Outdoor games conducted were – football, volley ball, dodge ball, kho-kho, 200 Meter relay race. Indoor games conducted were – Badminton, chess, carom, and ludo. Through these activities Students came to know about their strength, physically and mentally.

Children's Day

"Every Child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man." -Rabindranath Tagore.

On **14th November 2022**, Nursery/LKG/UKG students were asked to come in their colorful dress. This day, teacher's conducted the assembly and then sang a wishing song for children.

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R.C.Primary and St. Katherine High School Ara Gate Report: Cold and Chill weather started in Jharkhand State. Most of the Students of the school come daily to the school, Wearing the blue sweater high school students and primary wear red sweater as their uniform. They come by bicycle and some by walk. 47 students of the school got the bicycle. They were extremely happy and are thankful to our Provincial and our Generalate Team for providing it. In R.C. Primary School electricity connection is taken and it is used for the light and fans. Roofing work is done on one portion of the school as it was leaking in the rainy season. Rangoli Competition was held on 21st October. The Deepawali festival was celebrated in the school premises.

Rangoli at Deepawali



The diligent Sisters and Staff





Registration of 144 students class 9th is done. In the same way 129 regular and 01 ex-regular students for 10th Board exam form is filled online. We had the opening ceremony of Annual Sports Day, by dear Sr. Deepthi, Provincial Councilor and Manager Sr. Helen. The students took part in different sports like – Kabaddi, Kho- Kho, Football , Relay Race, 100- and 200-meter race, as well as other games were organised according to the class wise. The teachers celebrated the Children’s Day very well by performing the stage programme for them. They too danced and enjoyed thoroughly. The parents of our children go for the daily wages and the students don’t get the proper attention which they need . So, in the school we try to give sufficient help, support and guidance to the students so that they may be able to build up their future.

Adjusting with the cold and chill weather all the sisters are busy in their apostolate with full mind and heart serving the people, while serving the poor, sick and needy meeting the Baby Jesus born at Bethlehem not only on 25th December but Christmas is forever. **HAPPY HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** dear sisters from Seva Nilaya Community , Ara Gate.



R.C. Primary and St. Katherine H.S. School, Ara Gate



Hospital Day – 17th November!



Annual Sports Meet – 05/12/2022





Maria Sadan, Daha Farm



As the cold wave of winter creep, with the smokey weather and smiling face we the sisters of Daha Farm Community come here with our news reel. Here we all are in good health with the grace of The Almighty God and wish for you the same.

Here we collaborate with the Diocese in the ministry of pastoral work, teaching in the school and social work. In the Parish activities we support Parish Priest in visiting the houses and praying with the families. We visit the old people and spend time with them. In the parish we conducted Bible Quiz for the Crusvir children. On September 8th we celebrated the girl child day. We prayed for them and conducted games for them. They were explained about the importance of girl child. On Communio Sunday we conducted activities and few games for the Crusvir children. They all enjoyed the day. All the children were given some prizes and ended with lunch in the Parish house.

Teaching Apostolate: - In the school there are less students, the teachers try their best to bring up the children in better way to learn to read and write. We conduct different activities to make them active in the school. We conducted the annual sports day in the school. Students all participated with full enthusiasm and won many medals. Parents were happy to see their children with medals.

In the boarding there are 20 children at present. They all are happy and progressing in their studies. Social work in collaboration with the Diocese is going on well. Sr. Janet every now and then visits the villages and conducts different activities in the villages. As the Christmas 🎄 bells are ringing, we come to wish you all a very happy Christmas and Happy New year. May the peace and joy of Child Jesus be before you at all times.



Sr. Janet, addressing the women!



Sr. Lalitha Tirkey, with Students!



KARUNA SADAN, RANAPUR



Dear Sisters, loving greetings from Karuna Sadan community Ranapur. "Our life, to be Eucharistic – must be wheat – seed an soil-light and darkness, growth and grinding, rhythm and season - now barren, now blooming, now barren again- and eruptive force of faith and hoping.

Life is a beautiful journey that is meant to be embraced to the fullness every day, however that doesn't mean you always wake up ready to seize the day and sometimes need a reminder that life is great gift from God. Yes, we are very grateful to God for his great love and mercy upon us. God is blessing us with many-many graces each day of our life, so that we are able to work for His mission. We all are looking forward to welcome the new born king in Christmas Season.

We are also busy with various activities in our mission. Now we are four members in our community. Srs. Sneha, Bimla , Nuthan and Sr. Jenni. We welcomed Sr. Jenni in our community on 4th of December 2022. All sisters attend to the needs of the community and the needs of the patients. Sr Jenni is helping in the house and helping in the dispensary too. Sr. Nuthan is getting ready to write her exam end of this month. Now it's the season for cultivation, so we are busy in the field work. All the crops are growing well, and our land is green with zest of life. Our support staff is also busy in the field work and other activities. Our patients are also keeping fine and they are also waiting for the celebration of Christmas. Spending their time during day on little-little works, find joy and happiness. We are also happy to inform you that we got one more new patient for Badidhamni. He is getting used to the new atmosphere of Karuna Sadan. Christmas is the season, set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Though this was its original purpose the celebration of Christmas has grown to become a symbolic time for living in peace with the one another. Yes, dear sisters here we come to wish you all a very happy Christmas and bright new-year may God bless you all. Once again we thank you dear sisters for all your prayerful support which we experienced though out this year 2023.





Jyothi Sadan, Dhar



Greetings Favoured one the Lord is with you. Loving greetings from Jyothi Sadan community Dhar and may the Baby Jesus surround us with His everlasting peace. Christmas is all about God being born into the world into the fully human form of Jesus Christ. God becoming man without diminishing His divine nature. Yes for a child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

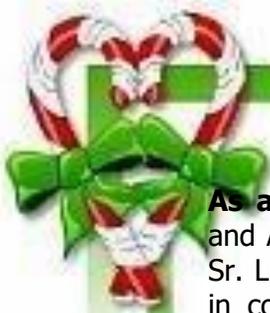
Jesus is the reason for the season of Christmas". God's love for each and every person is so strong that he came to earth in human form so people could experience a personal relationship with him, build trust and understand His love for all people and our need for Him. Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar. Yes, the whole army of angels appeared to the poor shepherd and sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests." Their angelic song awakens in us a deep longing to experience the closeness of God; a desire to live in a peaceful world; a hope to end suffering and a wish to eliminate grudges and hatred in our relationships with whom we share our life together.

Community:

Every year Our Lady of Fatima from Indore diocese goes from parish to parish and convent to convent in veneration and devotion. This year on 28th October 2022 Our Lady of Fatima was brought to our community for an hour. It was a moment of grace and holiness and experienced blessings from our heavenly Mother by her divine visitation. On 2nd December 2022 Sr. Theresa Mary and Sr. Tresa from St. Mary's Province made a short visit to us. It was a joy of meeting them. A time of sharing and a feeling of oneness.

Parish Activity:

Pope Francis' call for us to focus on Synodality is a call to restore and deepen our roots as the People of God journeying together in a common mission as followers of the Way, Jesus Christ. It's of the faithful's Communion, Participation, and Mission, that is the involvement of the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church.



As a small parish with 50 families in Dhar, we the sisters Lissa, Sorojini and Alish actively collaborate in the church's various activity and Mission. Sr. Lissa the Animator of St. Thomas SCC group is involved in parish work in collaboration of the laity in the Sunday liturgical service. Every 2nd Sunday there is SCC prayer and breaking of the Word of God in family. As people of God journeying together Sr. Sorojini and Sr. Alish lead the Sunday Choir along with the laity. People feel very happy as they are able to participate in the highest form of prayer of Holy Eucharist lively.

St. George English Medium School:

On 5th September 2022 Teacher's Day was celebrated in acknowledgment of our teacher's hard work, dedication and contribution in shaping the young minds, making them good and value filled citizens. Fr. Joseph Vallassery was the chief guest of the day.

Examinations:

Periodic Test - II was held from 22nd August – 1st September 2022.

Term -I Examination was conducted from 13th October - 20th October 2022. Exams are the best opportunities for the students to analyse their learning and excel in their studies. The students who gave their best, came up with a flying colour and for some it was a time to look back and gave a scop for improvement. Periodic Test - III was conducted from 12th December - 21st Dec. and I Pre - Board for X and XII from 10th December – 21st Dec.

Science Exhibition (Aurora):

This year on 2nd December 2022 St. George School Dhar organised Science Exhibition prioritising the learning abilities as pandemic affected the students' learning. Total 209 projects of all subjects like; Science 91, Maths 16, Commerce 12, English 14, Hindi 20, Information Technology 11, Social Science 27, Health and wellness 8, and Sports 10. It was a great success with the 500 students' participation as they explained their projects with full clarity and understanding. The Chief guest was Mrs. Rachna Bhadoriya (Additional S.P Dhar), Guest of honour Fr. Joseph Vallassery (Manager) Special guest Sr. Stella PHJC (Provincial Superior) graced the occasion with their valuable time and presence. On this day the toppers of class XII and X were specially invited and were honoured the students who scored above 90% with Trophy and Certificate. The highest percentage of class XII in CBSE Board is 94% and X 97%.

We the Jyothi Sadan community wish you all the blessings of peace, the beauty of hope, the spirit of love of Christmas, may you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds; the determination of the Magi and the peace of the child Jesus bless you now and forever. Grace filled, Happy New Year 2023.



KATHERINE NIVAS, DHAR



We encounter God not only in the small voices but also in the midst of turmoil of the world, in the distress and joy of our neighbour even in the loneliness of our own heart. It is an overwhelming recognition that God is where we are, always inviting us to come closer and to celebrate the divine gift of being alive. In the month of October, a retreat was arranged for the sisters. Sisters from different communities were happy to gather once again in the provincial house. All were encouraged by the theme "Personal growth of oneself through self-awareness with the word of God, contemplation and reflection of oneself from where I am in terms of relationship with God and one another". The days spent in silence helped everyone to enter into the depths of our own heart and find there the heart of God who speaks to us of love and we recognize right where all of us are in communion with one another and be transformed.

The Ruby Jubilee of Sisters Archana, Catherine and Sr. Suma were celebrated after the retreat. The thanksgiving Eucharist was offered by Fr. Joseph Vallassery and our parish priest Fr. Thankachan. We express our love, appreciation and thanks to our sisters for all they have accomplished in the vineyard of the Lord by their dedicated selfless service in different missions. After the mass a small felicitation programme was arranged. The Aspirants, Postulants and Novices entertained everyone through their dances.

On 29th October Our Lady of Fatima arrived in our house. The Aspirants and Sisters spent few hours in her presence in our chapel interceding for the world, and for the intentions of our Province and the Church. The various prayers and songs especially the recitation of the Rosary helped us to live our journey of faith and of Christian witness.

The tiny tots in our little planet were privileged to celebrate the Children's Day in a small scale. There were smiles and tears in their faces as they danced together. Christmas is one of the most wonderful times of the year. Christmas can be a season of Joy. We the sisters and aspirants are busy with the external preparations by cleaning the houses. The helping hands of Aspirants are the greatest strength of us in the Provincial house as there are only few sisters.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and bright new year 2023. May each person who comes into your life be as another Christ. May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

*Grateful for the Ruby
Years of Grace!*



Congrats to Srs. Archana, Catherine and Sr. Suma



Tiny tots - Little Planet with Sr. Matilda, Sr. Mukti and Didhi





St. Jude's Convent, Shahkot



Love, Peace and Joy come down on Earth on Christmas to make you happy and cheerful thus we the Judeans wish you all the smiles and hugs of this joyful Season and Christ filled New Year 2023. Synodality is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church which stimulates trust, binds up wounds, weaves new and deeper relationships, builds bridges to enlighten the minds and makes people's hopes flourish. It is not only the series of exercises that start and stop but rather a journey of growing authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls the church to live out in Third Millennium.

So here we are to express the lived experiences of the same. We along with our Parishners took part in the Peace March at Kapurthala Deanery on account of an attack on Infant Jesus Catholic Church at Patti. We also participated in the prayer service conducted by the Diocese of Jalandhar on 30/09/22 at Patti to show the power of prayer and Non-Violence. Month of October was dedicated for praying rosary at the house of each Parishners. We visited all the houses and prayed for their intentions. We had solemn conclusion of the Rosary Month on 31/10/22 at 4:00 pm at our Parish Hall conducted by Mariam Sena. To keep up the spirit of Synodality alive in young minds an annual catechism day was organised by our Deanery in Kapurthala School where each parish got an opportunity to perform and exhibit the talents of students. We also had an auction held at our parish to raise funds for Missions. It was an interesting charitable act where each Parishners brought something for sale and bought one or the other thing for helping the missions. Now catechism students are waiting for their annual catechism exams which will be held on 18/12/22.

Annual Sports Meet 2022-23 was organised for the students at school for two days where students relaxed themselves from studies and put all their efforts in winning the gold, silver and bronze medals for their performances. Rewards were awarded by SDM of Shahkot Sardar Amanpal Singh on 29/10/22. Danish Bhanot is a student of grade 8 who won a bronze medal in State Level Badminton Tournament held at Patiala. He brought many more laurels to SJCS by participating in every event conducted by ASISC and State Board. Sr. Delphy Joseph participated in 65th conference of ASISC held at Trivandrum to represent our School where many eminent personalities imparted their knowledge. One among them was Dr. Shashi Tharoor who spoke about revitalising the education system in India. It was worth attending such a conference to increase the knowledge. Funfair was organised on 14th November at our campus to celebrate children's day where students became the owners of different



stalls and sold the materials to the other students and staff. Students learned the value of money, time and energy at this Funfair. It was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Libin RCJ and Rev. Fr. Betson Joy. The profit received will be used for the charity purpose at Christmas. Now students are getting ready for the Annual Christmas cum Educational Exhibition 2022-23 "The Spark "to be held on 22/12/22. The MLA of Shahkot and Jalandhar Cantonment have graciously consented to be the Chief Guest and Guest of honour of the day. Hope to spark the fire of knowledge to all the viewers. We seek your prayers and blessings always. Once again Merry Christmas 2022 and Christ filled New Year 2023.





Jeevan Jyothi Convent, Peloul



"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent, life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

St. Thomas Aquinas! says "The Eucharist is the Sacrament of love: It signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the Consummation of the whole spiritual life." Without a Eucharist or a spiritual life, our life is empty like empty box, so in each once life we need God's grace so we are very glad to have everyday Holy Eucharist Celebrations. Happiness is the secret to all beauty. There is no beauty without happiness. We had gone to Gumla for outing with all the fathers and sisters of Bichna Parish. From the community we had outing with our helping staff and we had a good time to refresh ourselves. On 28th August we had Bible Quiz. We all participated in the Bible Quiz, through this we came to know more about Gospel. Our Diocese celebrated the 25 years of Silver Jubilee this year.

KATHERINE ACADEMY, PELOUL

Education refers to the information we gain and experience outside of books or classrooms, as well as the knowledge that we receive and experience in Schools, our homes and as members of Society. These days in Katherine Academy Khunti students are engaged in various interclass, inter – house and cultural programmes and sports competitions. These are held on a regular basis in our School. Extracurricular activities allow the child to spread their wings wider than just their school works. They get expose to several other activities and have contributed to improve Academic achievement. This year along with cultural, literary and sports we too had model making competition which improves their various skills. Students had the exposure programmes to the nearby places. Our students participated in Olympiad and district level Quiz competition. And brought laurel to our School by winning Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal.

Katherine's Academy, our School obtained the CBSE affiliation on 28th December 2022–**Affiliation No. 3430632**. We are very grateful to God the Almighty, Mother Mary, St. Joseph and St. Katherina Kasper for this benevolent grace. We are thankful to our Provincial Sr. Stella, Sr. Anjely Vice P. and Team, former Provincial Sr. Grace and Team especially Sr. Suma, we thank you Sr. Sneha for your hard work, grateful to Sr. Helen and community, grateful to former Principals Srs. Paulinmary, Vinaya, Saritha, Sr. Rajni, all the PHJC Sisters who endeavoured in the process, Sr. Smitha, Manager and Community Sisters, Sr. Sherine the present Principal and the entire Katherine's Academy School staff for your great contribution towards this success. Hearty Congratulations and God bless all. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas season and a prosperous, Peaceful Happy New Year 2023 filled with God's Blessings.



Clean school drive



Health Education by Sr. Dr. Reena PHJC



The joy of exhibition

Inter-house sports





Katherine Bhawan, Indore

Warmest greetings to you all dear sisters from Katherine Bhawan Community. Its, it's we who build the community. The community of Katherine Bhawan Indore is a hospitable and caring community. The community above all cares for each other and unites the community together through different apostolate namely school, hospital and other community activities. These activities bring the community together and encourage one another to work together. The community has a team and family spirit. In spite of busy schedule sisters have time to be together in the refectory, cooking in the kitchen on some occasion and spend time with Lord at the Liturgy of the hours. There are ample of challenges on our way but the constant support of the community challenges seems to disappear which is a good sign of perfect community. It is a time for the communities to remember all of you through prayer, reflection and good deeds.

Sacred Heart School Indore

Education shows us the importance of hard work and at the same time helps to grow as good human being .Education is the deliberate systematic, and sustained effort to transmit, provoke or acquire knowledge, values, attitudes, skills or sensibilities as well as any learning that results from the effort. Sacred Heart Co-ed school one of the leading educational institution of Indore would like to share with you all its good practices of excellence. Along with academic excellence, the school strongly upholds moral and spiritual values. The integral development of personality is the prime goal. It is achieved through effective teaching, sports and games and co-curricular activities.

Special effort is made to promote integration of different linguistic, religious and social backgrounds, thus shaping the students to be open-minded and balanced citizens of our global family. The heavenly patron of the school is Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. We look upon him as our guide and implore his blessings for the promotion of values of the kingdom of God in terms of truth, love, justice, equality and fraternity, we insist on the practice of those values to bring a just society where



love and service flourish. Annual Function held on 10th December, we witnessed fantabulous performance of the students, and their self confidence. We are indebted to the Almighty for giving us every opportunity to grow in life. The theme was, One World, One Vision towards Peace. A lot of inspirational message was given to the audience that we are one family the vasudev kudumbakam.



*Thamasoma
Jyothirganaya!*



*The glimpses
Of Annual
Function!*





St. Francis Hospital and Research Center

More than 450 Heart surgeries have been successfully completed and many other surgeries are done through the help of Ayushman. Ayushman provides a procedure package with important information regarding different procedures in the fields such as Cardiology, Orthopedics, General Medicine and urology. The Hospital acts according to this package and implements test for a certain diagnosis. The results of these tests determine further steps of the patient care and help to provide fast and successful treatment. The staffs of the hospital are given opportunities, such as medical classes to widen their knowledge in different medical fields.

Through these classes and examinations, the staffs are able to continue the learning process and to stay informed about current and relevant developments regarding medicine and health care especially since the hospital is preparing for the inspection by NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals). On 16th October hospital received a Neuro microscope. The Quality of the work in the hospital is constantly improving.

Synodality – the lived experiences:

Synodality with different initiatives in our parish church and our ministry. Vatican second very well defines the Catholic Church as a pilgrim church because all the faithful journey together from earthly life to the heavenly Jerusalem. To journey together towards the heavenly Jerusalem, we need a guide in whom we have trust and confidence. Jesus Christ is the true guide who is the way, the truth and the life. Pope Francis had declared a Synodal Church 2021-23 wherein he emphasizes communion, participation and mission. Therefore, we can very well say that as a Christian community we are called to participate in the missionary activity of Christ, it is the spirit of the risen Lord that inspire and direct us.

It is our appointed leaders filled with the Spirit of the Lord leads us from the forefront and guide us to work especially in our community. The role of the legitimate superior is to accept everyone and entrust with responsibilities per their qualification. The qualified ones joyfully contribute their contribution for the growth of the community, province and Church at large.



The vibrant community Katherine Bhawan Indore works well and always sends positive and spiritual vibes to all around and especially who are closely associated with us. The diligent service of the community is seen through a couple of activities, such as preparation of the Bible quiz and participation. Therefore, we are proud to say the journey of success has many moments that brought us lot of satisfaction. Various activities in the school premises bring joy to the students in the school with various curriculums. The Hospital also brings smiles to the patients and at times sadness to the bereaved families. Through these the community shares joy with all. We thank God individually and together as well with the Liturgy of the hours. The sincere collaboration of the community members makes us enjoy the presence of God in the Community, parish and our ministry as well. All these Apostolate help us to spread the values of life. Faith is a theological virtue that is contagious. Our risen Lord transmitted it to his timid disciples through apparition at various places. The life of our mother foundress St. Katherina Kasper has inspired us to render service faithfully through our various apostolate. Therefore, all our endeavors at the close of the day bring joy and satisfaction.

Warm greetings and best wishes to all on the occasion of Christmas and New Year 2023, May the new babe fill you with peace and joy.

Heaven's Very Special Child
 Author: Edna Massimilla

A meeting was held quite far from Earth
 It was time again for another birth.
 Said the Angels to the Lord above -

"This special child will need much love.
 "Her progress may be very slow
 "Accomplishment she may not show.
 "And she'll require extra care
 "From the folks she meets down there.
 "She may not run or laugh or play
 "Her thoughts may seem quite far away
 "So many times she will be labeled
 "different, helpless and disabled.
 "So, let's be careful where she's sent.
 "We want her life to be content.
 "Please, Lord, find the parents who
 "Will do a special job for you.
 "They will not realize right away
 "The leading role they are asked to play.
 "But with this child sent from above
 "Comes stronger faith, and richer love.
 "And soon they'll know the privilege given
 "In caring for their gift from heaven.
 "Their precious charge, so meek and mild
 "Is heaven's very special child."

Kid's World





KATHERINE NIVAS CONVENT, MEHATPUR

Christmas is a joyful and wonderful time of realizing and recalling the abundant blessings of God, as well as His love towards us and those who are around us. So, first of all we the Katherine Nivas family would like to wish you all, a joyful and fruitful season of Christmas and New Year 2023...

Community

As we look back our hearts are overwhelmed with joy, because the blessings of the Lord in our community, school and the parish are innumerable. We are blessed with everyday mass and recollection on every 2nd Saturday of month. We are also nourished with regular village visit and family apostolate in the parish. Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit all of us are actively participating and contributing to the parish ministry together with the new parish priest. Sr. Jessy is the in charge for 'Mariyam sena' (a pious group of women in the parish), Sr. Suketa is the in charge of catechism children, Sr. Sandhya is the in charge of Youth in the parish and Sr. Poonam is the in charge of sacristy.

It is said that, Sharing is caring, as a chance to practice it, we had the 'Diwali' celebration with the 'Santhi Bavan' children (Mother Theresa's) in Jalander. On the same day evening we had celebration with the parishioners and youth of Mehathpur parish too. The month of December gave us opportunity to see the gift of life by the birth of two calves in our own cattle shed. On the road to vegetable self-sufficiency, we have a wonderful seasonal vegetable garden taken cared by the sisters.

Education Ministry

Learning something is not only from the books for a learner but also from the eco- socio-cultural atmosphere of a person. In order to have comprehensive growth of a student, St. Jude's convent school has accompanied students for a picnic - the higher-class students to wonderland and a dream picnic to little stars of the school as well. It has refreshed their hearts and minds, also helped them to energise and boost up themselves for to learn and grow.

During the time of festival of lights (Diwali) they had also Diya decoration and 'Rangoli' decoration to experience the vast horizons of colour and light. In order to develop the enormous talents of students they had divergent occasional speech and poem competitions were arranged in the school.



"A healthy body is the symbol of a healthy mind" to prove it and to develop it our students had participated in different sports competitions in the zonal and district level. They have decorated it with acquiring gold and silver medals respectively in the competitions. It was the first experience of the school and students to participate and win the medals in those circumstances.

Nature gives us so many lessons in our day today life, in order to listen the voice of the nature and to protect it school has planned a green day for its students. On the occasion students dressed in green came with saplings and planted it the places allotted for them, under the guidance of the class in charge. Jesus taught the kingdom of heaven is for little children and the one's just like them, to remember and remind about the value of it, Children's Day was conducted in a colourful way. Sarpanch of the locality was the chief guest and on this auspicious occasion teachers staged beautiful programmes for our students. Development and growth of an institution mark out our selfless work and efforts. Now we are getting ready with new registrations and admissions...

'Synodality' – the lived experience:

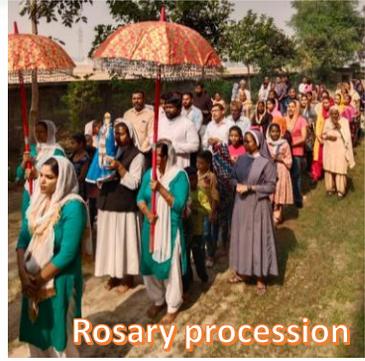
The body of Christ, the Church in the recent times reflect upon the theme 'Synodality'. In line with that, our Mehatpur parish too taken up the theme 'Synodality' in different activities of the parish. Especially, in the month of October dedicated to our Mother and the Rosary devotion we have celebrated the feast of St. John Paul II, our parish patron, as the unifying occasion of the faithful.

Throughout October month we have prayed rosary in each and every family of the parish, and end of the month we had holy eucharistic celebration and rosary procession as a conclusion. The catholic youth from our parish attended the sports and cultural competitions arranged by the diocesan youth commission in St. Theresa's catholic Church, Dhariwal. The catechism children of our parish presented a wonderful 'Bangada' (Punjabi traditional dance) in the Kapurthala Deanery level catechism Annual Day celebration. As a tribute and respect towards their teachers, the catechism students of Mehatpur parish staged beautiful programmes and given gifts to their catechism teachers on Teacher's Day. Wish You Mary Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2023





Sisters with parishners



Rosary procession



The Catechism group



The joy of Wonderland



KATHERINE'S HOME – NOVITIATE, TILLORE

Novice Srs. Sanjukta, Premcila, Priyanka and Sr. Rajni.

Greetings of love, joy and peace from Katherine's home to all our readers of Chirag. "If you think positively, sound becomes music, movement becomes dance, smile becomes laughter and mind becomes meditation." Here we novices and postulants along with sisters come with laughter, music and dance to share about our life in Katharine's Home. We, the novices had few classes along with other novices of different congregation. It was an enriching experience.

The topics were Social Analysis, Human Sexuality, Mariology, Personality development, Synoptic Gospel, Personal growth and Prophets. We have few more classes on different topics yet to be attended. We also have daily classes taken by Sr. Preethi and Sr. Grace. We are privileged to have many classes. All these classes help us to have a better understanding of ourselves, religious life, and vowed life. Postulants attend daily classes taught by our sisters.

One day recollection was arranged for all the novices of Indore diocese by our Bishop Swamiji. He Talked to us about Synodality. For a synodal church communion, participation and mission. Listening to the Word of God and walking together. Journeying together is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the word and the celebration of the Eucharist. Listening requires having an open mind and heart without prejudices.

We read the mission commandment of Jesus in the gospel of Mark 16:15 "Go to all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation". The last commandment of Jesus was to proclaim the good news to the whole world. As a religious we need to proclaim good news because it is a commandment of Jesus. We can proclaim the good news in two ways Through prayer, Through the action. Through our prayer and life, we can become good news of Jesus. Bible convention from 2nd to 4th of November brought joy and happiness in to our life along with the renewal of oneself.



We thank Sr. Mukti who was with us in the absence of Sr. Preethi. We thank Sr. Vinaya for teaching us many new songs. we look forward to learn many more songs. The visits from our Provincial House and other communities add joy to our lives. We also did some planting of seeds of vegetables and flowers. We have a gardener but we help for all the work. So, around the house is becoming greenish now. Every little smile can touch somebody's heart, no one is born happy, but all of us are born with the ability to create happiness. so let us be happy and joyful people. With great happiness and joy, we wish you a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year 2023. Bye till we meet again in the next Chirag.

Learning in unison



Welcome mother Mary



With the Shepherd Bishop Chacko



Faithful Tilling



SAN JOSE CONVENT-BEHROR



Greetings and prayerful wishes from San Jose Convent, Behror. We are happy to greet you all during this holy season and share with you all about us and our ministry. Every day is a gift to learn new things in this beautiful campus. God the Father Almighty gives us all the opportunity to take His good news to His people through our ministry here. Yes, as St. Paul says Happy are the feet who carries the good news to the people.

Pastoral work.

Sr. Paulinmary took initiative to conduct different activities for the parishners every month. Bible quiz was conducted for all the parishners from the four gospels and the winners will receive the prize on Christmas day. Writing competition was conducted from the lives of St. Thomas, the Apostle and Ignatius of Loyola for our parish youth. In the month of October Rosary was prayed in all the Catholic families and last day of the month, it was concluded with the Holy Eucharist celebration and Bible sharing was done in many families. The parishners were encouraged and enthusiastic.

On 20th of Nov. under the guidance of Fr. Jose Kuriakose the parish priest, the parishners went for a pilgrimage to Sardhana in Meerut. The parishners participated in the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by the parish priest and all of them were happy to receive the blessings from Our Lady of Grace. It was a grace filled day for all of us. The parish feast was celebrated on the 4th of Dec. The liturgy was prepared meaningfully and with everyone's support, the day was full of joy and all of us exchanged happiness with one another.

St. Xavier's school.

In the school different activities were conducted for all the classes on Saturdays and certificates were awarded to the winners. The school had organized educational tour for primary and middle-class section. The classes had gone to different places on different days. We the Sisters also had the chance to accompany them to different places. From 10th Nov. to 13th Nov. there was a 66th District Level Basketball Tournament for boys and girls in our school campus. 56 schools participated in it. St. Xavier's school boys won first and got the trophy also few more schools got the trophy and the medals. On 2nd of Dec. the school celebrated the feast of St. Xavier and the school children gave programme and his life



was played by children. On 4th of Dec. "Run for Health" was organized by the school for classes 6th to 9th and the winners received the prizes. This initiation is appreciated by the students and parents. So this is being conducted every year.

After Two years of break, the school organized Annual Sports Day on 10th of November various competitions, drills, dances, yoga and games were conducted. Every child was given the opportunity to participate in the annual sports day. Many were invited from near and far and the campus was colourful and memorable one for all of us. The school had Christmas celebration on 23rd of December. The students had prepared beautiful Christmas songs and there was a carol singing. All the staffs received gift and special dinner was given to all of them. From 24th Decemer to 1st of Jan. the school declared holiday. Here we are to wish you all Happy Christmas and Bright New Year 2023, may Baby Jesus bless each one of us.

Sisters and winners





KHRISTU JYOTHI COVENT, KHANDWA.



Life is beautiful event in the midst of hopeless situation it moves with hope. Every month and season give message to learn in life with its event. It renews, strengthens, and gives life to live for God. As we know Synodal church means Communion, Participation and Mission. The word synod means Journeying together with all the humanities of the world and evangelizes them. Pope Francis wants the church to be true to the image of Christ in the person in his or her life. Thus reveal Christ through her or his actions to all humanity without discrimination.

After reflecting the Synodal church the Khandwa Diocese has encouraged different Parishes to involve all the faithful to come forward for the evangelization through word and action. Pope Francis said, first to listen to God, so that with Him we may hear the cry of his people. Then take own discernment through prayer and reflection. which will help us to involve others in our lives. This brings unity and strength to the church. In the parish different groups leaders are newly elected from Parish council, Mahila Sang, and Youth group. Our parish is trying its best to involve all catholic families for prayers, meeting, Recollection in different groups which will enable us to live a life according to the synodal church.

Welcome is a blessings and happiness for the house. Yes, we welcomed six Aspirants Alina Bara, Martina Kujur, Dipika Kullu, Sumanti Khakha, Madhuri Bodra and Sanjina Toppo in our convent on 29/9/2022. Once more the house became full of life. We thank our provincial Sr. Stella and her team for their vision to make Khristu Jyothi convent to bloom. Sr. Jayanthi takes English class, and Grammar, Bible Reading and teaching the mass songs. Our Aspirants help us in cleaning the house, cutting the vegetables, and gardening. They are happy. One day we all went to Kanjabeda our lady shrine for inauguration of the prayer room we had an hour of prayer with Rt. Rev. Bishop Durairaj, fathers and sisters. we celebrated Mother's Day on St. Monica's day in our parish many mothers participated we had solemn Eucharistic celebration after the mass we had small program for them. All enjoyed the day. 20/12/2022 Christ the King was celebrated solemnly in the Cathedral. After the mass we had Candle procession. We all participated in the procession. We wish you all A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023.



Aspirants

Alina Bara, Martina Kujur, Dipika Kullu, Sumanti Khakha, Madhuri Bodra and Sanjina Toppo



The Pilgrim Church



A homely pic



TEARFUL ADIEU TO REV. FR. BERCHMANS D'PENNA



Pioneer Divine Word Missionary priest Berchmans D'Penna, went home to be with the Lord on the early hours of December 11, 2022 from the ICU of Robert Nursing Home Indore. Berkie (as he wished to be called) was born on August 17, 1935 in St. Theresa's SVD parish Bombay. As a late vocation, he joined Catholic Ashram Palda in June 1959. Taking into account his age, the superiors limited his Latin studies for a year in Palda and was promoted to Novitiate in 1960. He took his first Vows on May 31, 1962 at Catholic Ashram khurda and went to Pune for his Philosophical and Theological studies. He made his final Commitment in the Society on May 31, 1968 and was ordained a Priest on October 19, 1968 at St Theresa's Church Bandra by his Eminence Cardinal Valerian Gracias of Bombay.

Being appointed to Sambalpur region, Initially, after his ordination he spent a decade as a missionary in different mission station of Sambalpur region. He was appointed parish priest of Sirpur from 1980 to 1986. From here he moved to Chanera as Parish Priest for a year and then was given the chance to become a Pioneer Missionary in Borgaon where he worked from 1987 to 1994. From Borgaon, Berkie was transferred as the Parish Priest of Aulia for a year in 1994. Following which he became once again Pioneering Missionary from 1995 to 2007 in New Harsud. From here he moved to Pioneer a new station in Khargone District Kasarawad. Then moved to Bilenkhedda as Parish Priest from 2009 to 2014. Following this he became the Parish Priest of Deoli in 2014 to 2017. In 2018, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Home, Indore However; the Spirit of adventure and being available Berkie opted to serve as the Chaplain of PHJC Sisters at Dhar from 2018.





All through his life, Berkie had a simple life-style. He maintained a deep spirituality and was quite unassuming in his personality. He conscientiously consulted the superiors and followed their guideline. He was over willing to take up new responsibilities to begin a station and even to work alone. He also loved sports and games, especially was a keen observer of football and cricket.

We, St. Joseph's Province family is greatly indebted to Fr. D'Penna for all his generous contribution towards the PHJC family as chaplain, English teacher for postulants, a friend and guide for all. He drove majestically to Katherine Nivas Chapel each morning. Offered the Eucharist for us, asked inspiring questions to the young formees every day. Was inquisitive to know the ongoings of the house and asked for the missing person every time on notice. He shared with us the ocean of his knowledge on sports, history and General Knowledge.

Was ever ready to be at our service for the sacrament of reconciliation many times especially on recollection days, retreats and when sisters asked for it. He was full life, happy, wise and active person even at the age of 84 plus. We had lot to learn from him especially his diligence on his priestly duties even at the fringe of his ill health we found him at the altar of the Lord, we even had to forcefully ask him to sit and offer Holy Mass. You have truly inspired us dear Fr. D'Penna, we miss you. May your soul rest in peace and enjoy the eternal bliss with the saints and angels.





Maria Nivas, Barwani



A warm greeting to all of you from Maria Nivas Convent Barwani. After the home leave and retreat all of us are back and enthusiastic and energetic in our community and mission. It was a great privilege to attend the Ruby jubilee of our sisters Archana, Catherine and Suma after five days of their retreat they were all fully energized and enthusiastic to have peaceful and joyful celebration. We had ICC meeting with our parish priests Rev. Fr. Thomas and Fr. Sebastian OMI. Main discussion was centenary and grotto celebration are of us given certain responsibilities. On 13th November we had the centenary celebration and Grotto feast. Bishop Sebastian Durairaj Bhopal Diocese, Bishop Devprasad Ganava Udaipur Diocese concelebrated the enthusiastic celebration. Around 35 priests were present in different parishes and few sisters too mainly from Khandwa, Khargone etc. It was a very wonderful celebration. After the programme all were given supper.

13 students received first Holy Communion. Our different community sisters were present. On 19th November afternoon we had as community short outing just to relax ourselves. The nearest place called Ambapani. Though it was short visit everyone enjoyed and relaxed. Rosary month we took turn and went two along with parish priests to the houses to pray rosary. Sr. Kanimozhi, Preeti along with Fr. Sebastian OMI went to Khandwa to attend youth convention, due to some problem it was cancelled they came next day safely. On 22nd October Boarding shed for the children's bathing place and washing place started. Since many houses have come up it was not safe for the children to take bath in the open area. Also, convent washing place both places. Work was completed on 27th by St. Mary's school Barwani.

On 8th November the sisters below 50 years of age attended a one-day session at the pastoral center Khandwa. Topic- Blessings and challenges of community, religious life and the potential of communication. Our sisters Kanimozhi, Preeti and Anna were privileged to attend and benefit it. After a long preparation and a long-awaited dream full filled very meaning fully and peaceably. Silver years of St. Mary's Sr. Se. School. We the Community appreciate and congratulate Principal Sr. Celima and management. The entire staff and students for their committed, dedicated and wonderful performance. May the good God and Mary our dear mother continues to involve think very presence and blessings and the protection, the little act which take place in school campus and



everyone who come over there. We the Maria Nivas community wishing you all a grace filled advent season, Mary Christmas and a prosperous New year 2023.

We the Khandwa a CRI group had arranged one day programme about Synodality, communion and participation. This made us to be more open, helpful, caring one another, supporting, appreciating one another, understanding the other better way. Girls Boarding Children have all come back refreshed after their Diwali holidays from 22nd to 30th October. Students of class 5th had their half yearly exams from 7th to 11th November. This year for the first-time class 5th students is going to appear for the board exams. They are also busy preparing for their model exams. Forms are already been filled with the consent of their parents. They are attending coaching classes in the boarding itself in preparation for their model exams. Parents are paying the coaching class fees. Mr. Pawan their class teacher is coaching them he also takes in the boys boarding also. On the 14th of November on children's day.

Sr. Celima sent the 9th standard girls to celebrate children's day with our boarding children. They had some games spent some time with them and also distributed gifts to them like drawing books, crayons, notebook, pencils, pen, scale etc. Children were very happy and they also were very happy. Class 1st to 4th is beginning their half yearly exams from 16th to 19th December and 23rd will be going for their Christmas holidays after school function on the 23rd December.

**ST. MARY SR.SEC. SCHOOL- Silver jubilee of
St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School (1996-2021)**



St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School with the motto "fear of the lord is the first stage of wisdom" had reached to the silver lines 25 years gracefully last year 1996 to 2021. We celebrated it on 3rd December 2022. With the theme "Jubilant" A Shining Road to Gold. Chief Guest of the day was Mr. Shivraj Singh, IAS, District collector Barwani, Special guests Rev. Fr. Augustine Diocesan Administrator Khandwa, Rev.Sr. Stella PHJC, Mr. Kaushal Singh Dodwe CMO Barwani, Fr. Thomas Parish priest catholic Church Barwani, Mr. Ram Naresh Shukla Former Principal of PG Collage Barwani and Mr. Arvind Shukla –Chairman Nimar Sahodaya School Complex who were present in this auspicious moment of the school.



The audience were filled with joy to see the colorful programs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to General Leadership-Sr. Germain, Sr. Harmana, Sr. Jolise May, Sr. Gonzalo, Sr. Judith and their team, Regional and Provincial Superiors late. Sr. Immaculata, Sr. Florence, Sr. Sunita, Sr. Grace, Sr. Stella and their team, Principals Sr. Philomena, Sr. Suma, Sr. Lissa, Sr. Rita and all the sisters who rendered their service and helped in all the way to complete 25 precious years of St. Mary's School.

ALLUMINI MEET:

On 4th December 2022 was the most memorable day for the Alumni of St. Mary's. Around 400 students were present for the programme. Chief Guest of the day was Rev.Sr. Stella Phjc the provincial Superior of St. Joseph Province, Dhar. Guest of Honour Sr. Grace Phjc, Sr. Anjali, Sr. Suma, Sr. Lissa and Sr. Rita. Special Guests Sr. Jaya Phjc, Pioneer, Mrs. Usha, Mr. Mangial. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who helped and rendered their service in St. Mary's. Special Thanks to all the Principals for leading St. Mary's School to heights.

Activities

During this session, all the National and religion festivals were celebrated in the school to teach the students to respect every human being in spite of their difference. We also celebrated different activities Festivals and competitions like Teacher's Day, Children's Day, Raksha Bandan, Dasshera, Diwali, Mehandi, Debate, Drawing, Poster, Slogan Writing, Fireless Cooking Poem Recitation, Storytelling, extempore etc. were conducted to bring out the students Talent and capacity. Class X and XII is Having their Pre-Board and other students are getting ready for the PT – 2 Exam. Our students also participated in different activities and competitions conducted by Nimar Sahodaya Complex. And brought laurels to our school.

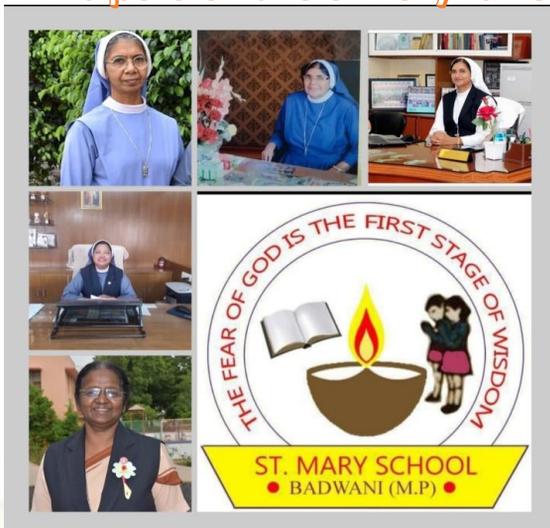




St. Mary's School, Barwani Celebrating the 25 years of grace!



Principals of the silvery lane!





The Silvery School Magazine!



The enthralling Classic



The first Alumni meet!



SHANTI NILAYA, DHAMNOD, SYNODALITY

Our community at Dhamnod Shanti Nilaya Convent mostly all of us had the opportunity to attend the one-day seminar on Synodality. All of us welcomed the idea with open mind and heart. It was indeed a challenge to the Church and everyone who looks forward to a restructuring in life pattern, old customs and traditions. etc. The very picture spoke volumes to us Under the guidance of a tress like figure even two outstretched hands like that of a protective hand above as we move forward is very metaphorical. It is coincidental as our Congregation too is introspecting a new way of looking at the present scenario of the Congregation. The challenge of the Pop Francis is touching us with a ray of Hope. May he be an instrument in creating a new venture in the church and the world at large. This is my prayer for Him.

To be very frank, we feel at ease with this idea of equity, togetherness what shall we name it a sense of deep commitment to everyone. It is like that in a small family unit Father, mother daughter and son all feel the inner urge as they grow and face the challenges of growing up. It is not one man steers the direction or in the decision making of a family branch. Here again another view comes to my mind is the capacity of attentive listening to all the views. None is so passive; Everyone feels the thrust to express their little might. In the society too if this spirit could contaminate and spread like a spark or a Chirag it would bring out the idea of glow; and dull the divisions of the society which largely India mars and blinds us. The caste high and low, rich poor, marginalized may be devoured by the Synodality spirit. As our foundress rightly said no one is a foreigner. All on the same platform expressing or shaping the ideas for the present and the future.

The World is looking for the same ideology. Our pop has really embedded the world with his creative mind set. No room for "Race- isam". As Ravinder Nath Tagore an Indian poet writes "Where the mind is with our fearIn to that heaven of freedom my father let my Country awake. Let every unit walk hand in hand; Wolf and lamb, cat and dog, Lion and cow as, that of the Holy instructions from Holy Books. What are we looking for.... sisters/father/brothers/friends Co existence, equity.... In our new parish and Shanti Nilaya convent we did celebrate the Constitution Day. We highlighted the sense of equity and co-existence among all the religion. What do I hear; Cry for recognition and human respect. Let us work together and walk together is may be the motto.

Another view I see with the Synodality is the phobia of the powerful. The powerful and the strong never look for equity; this is a threat to the status of such mindset. Let this be invited to awareness that this ice burg is to be melted for walking together and listening to the untold stories of many crying out in the wilderness "The migrants".



"SYNOD". JOURNEYING TOGETHER

What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word "**synod**". Journeying together — laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome — is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice.

After stating that the people of God is comprised of all the baptized who are called to "be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood", the Second Vatican Council went on to say that "the whole body of the faithful, who have an anointing which comes from the holy one (cf. 1 *Jn* 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural sense of the faith of the whole people of God, when 'from the bishops to the last of the faithful' it manifests a universal consensus in matters of faith and morals". These are the famous words *infallible* "In *credendo*". A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth" (*Jn* 14:17), in order to know what he "says to the Churches" (*Rev* 2:7).

The Synod of Bishops is the point of convergence of this listening process conducted at every level of the Church's life. The Synod process begins by listening to the people of God, which "shares also in Christ's prophetic office", according to a principle dear to the Church of the first millennium: "*Quod omnes tangit ab omnibus tractari debet*". The Synod process then continues by listening to the pastors. Through the Synod Fathers, the bishops act as authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses of the faith of the whole Church, which they need to discern carefully from the changing currents of public opinion. On the eve of last year's Synod it was stated: "For the Synod Fathers we ask the Holy Spirit first of all for the gift of listening: to listen to God, so that with him we may hear the cry of his people; to listen to his people until we are in harmony with the will to which God calls us". The Synod process culminates in listening to the Bishop of Rome, who is called to speak as "pastor and teacher of all Christians", not on the basis of his personal convictions but as the supreme witness to the *fides totius Ecclesiae*, "the guarantor of the obedience and the conformity of the Church to the will of God, to the Gospel of Christ, and to the Tradition of the Church".

Let us confirm ourselves that we listen to the Holy Spirit, listen to God in His word made flesh to dwell among us, listen to the heart throbs of the pilgrim church and listen consistently to the people of God in the periphery of life. May Jesus command us to listen with the heart of love, peace and joy.

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco>