



Ursuline Links

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EDITORIAL Happy Birthday Mama Mary

'Come September' is a beautiful song ushering in memories of loved ones, bringing joy and happiness all around. The month of September is a very special month for us Catholics all over the world as we celebrate the



birthday of our dear Mama Mary. As I pen these lines, I visualize crowds of devotees flocking to the shrines of Our Lady of Vailankanni.

Pondering over this feast I asked myself what is so special of Vailankanni. There are three major events associated with our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni:

Tradition has it that a shepherd boy used to daily carry milk to his master from Vailankanni. Despite the morning freshness, fatigue came over him as he was passing a water pond. Placing the milk pot near a banyan tree, the boy fell into an unusual slumber, only to be startled to his feet by the sweet vision of a beautiful Lady holding in her hand a most charming child of divine appearance. Still surprised the Lady asked for some milk for her child which the boy reverently offered. The impatient master did not believe the story of the boy. But to the greater astonishment of all present, the milk began to surge over the pot and flow out. On reaching the place of apparition, the gentleman and others began to believe in her appearance. This place began to be called, "Matha Kulam" (Our Lady's Tank).

Around the end of the 16th century, a poor widow and her son lived in Vailankanni. Everyday the lame boy used to sit under a banyan tree and sell butter-milk to the thirsty wayfarers.. One day a very bright light appeared in front of him and from amidst the light, a Lady of peerless grace with a divine Child in her arms, asked the boy for a cup of butter-milk. She then directed him to go and inform a catholic

gentleman at Nagapattinam to put up a Chapel in her name on the spot of the apparition. The boy realized that his legs had become normal upon the word from the Lady. Accordingly a Chapel was built where now stands the present Shrine of the Basilica. The Lady was called ' Our Lady of Good Health'.

In the 17th century, a Portuguese merchant vessel was caught in a giant storm in the Bay of Bengal as it was sailing from Macao in China to Colombia in Ceylon. The helpless sailors fervently prayed to Mary the Star of the Sea to save them. They vowed to build a Church in her name, wherever they could land on. The stormy sea became calm. Their ship landed near the shore of Vailankanni on the 8th September,



the Feast of the Nativity of our Lady. A beautiful Church was built and from that time the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health is celebrated every year preceded by hoisting the flag on August 29th.

Conclusion: On August 15th we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption where Mary was taken up to heaven body and soul. But, will we find Mary there? No, in spirit she is still with her children serving her Lord and Master as she walks the talk with all the poor, needy, sick and lonely relaying all their petitions and problems to Jesus her Son. That's why especially during these days people flock to her with confidence and trust, hoping and praying for miracles to take place in their lives through her intercession. But let us not only ask for favours but also sing: *'Be with us Mary along the way, guide every step we take. Lead us to Jesus your loving Son. Come with us Mary Come.'*

Sr. Susanne

Snippets From the Life of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Theme: Finding God in all Things (FGIAT)

Finding God in all things is at the core of Ignatian Spirituality and is rooted in our growing awareness that God can be found in every one, in every place and in everything. When we learn to pay more attention to God, we become more thankful and reverent, and through this we become more devoted to God, more deeply in love with our Creator and our creation.

There are 3 important characteristics of Jesuit Spirituality: **Finding God in all things, Listening with a discerning heart & choosing to live for the greater glory of God.**

● A spirituality of awareness

St Ignatius tells us that before you do anything important or significant, the principle is **“Stop, Reflect, Proceed”** Ask yourself, Where am I going? In whose presence am I? What am I going to do? Why am I going to do this? How am I going to do this? (SE 75).

God can make me what I am meant to be only when I surrender myself fully, totally, completely to God. There is a difference between submission and surrender. In submission there is an obligation. I ought to do therefore I do it. But in surrender there is love. I do everything because of love I am rooted and grounded in God's love.

● A spirituality of desires

Ignatian Spirituality is a spirituality of desires. A Jesuit is a man of desires. You are as big as your desires. The source of desire is given in Autobiography No 9 i.e., a heart on fire, ablaze with God. Desire is energy, enthusiasm, magnanimity, generosity, surrender. Fr Peter Hans Kolvenbach, the former Superior General, asks us: “Am I



living my life/vocation out of desire or out of obligation?”

Our desires are misplaced at times and therefore it must be discerned. Here we apply the principle of Ignatian Indifference which invites us to make a personal choice.

● A spirituality of Ignatian Indifference

In Buddhism, Indifference is neither attraction nor repugnance. Indifference means neutral. 'thatasth manobhav' = equanimous, that means a river bank. A person is sitting on the river bank and meditating, a fragrant flower floats on the water. The person feels like taking it and offer it to God but exercises self-control and allows it to float. After sometime, a dead body floats on the water. It is stinking. It is not a pleasant feeling to be there. The person feels like

running away from there but exercise self-control and allows it to float.

But Ignatian Indifference goes beyond this i.e., I have to make a personal choice here. For Ignatius, Indifference is I CHOOSE: a personal choice to do something for the greater glory of God always.

In this situation I make a choice. If need be, I jump into the water, take the fragrant flower and offer it at the feet of my God. If need be, I jump into the water, take the dead body out and give it a decent burial.

Conclusion: Through a spirituality of awareness, desires and indifference I become a contemplative in action. The Jesuit norm is to find where God will best be served and where people will best be helped!

Sr. Chitra

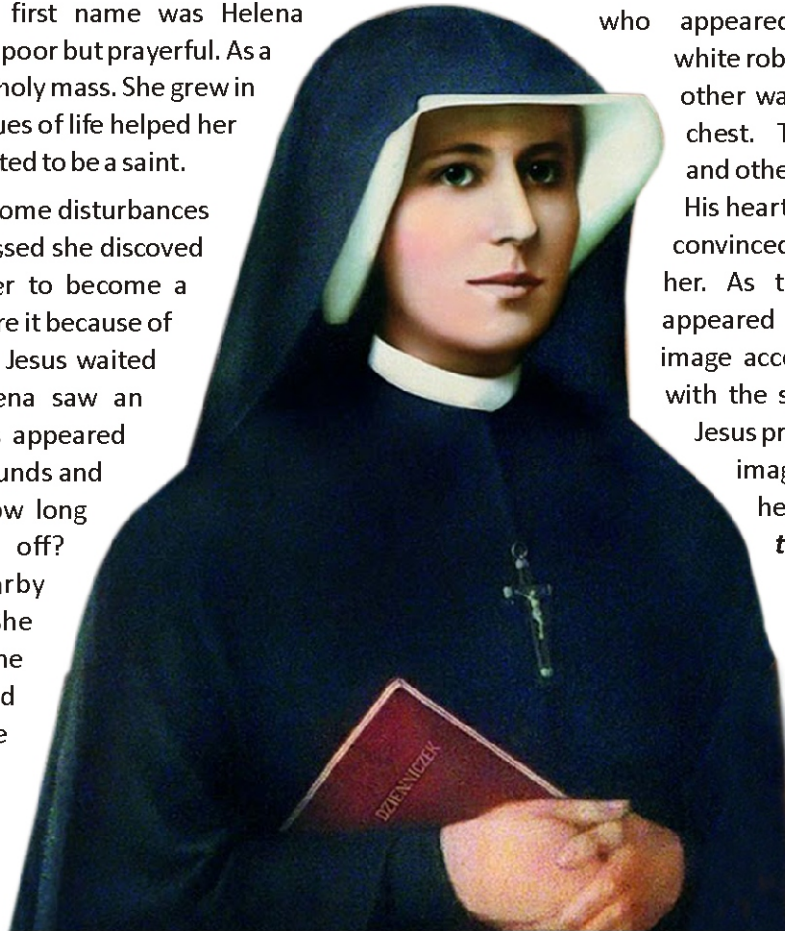
OBITUARY

1. Sr. Valery's mother expired on 17th July 2018 at the age of 74.
2. Sr. Josephine's eldest sister expired on 22nd July at the age of 95
3. Sr. Ignatius from Africa Province expired on 7th September at the age of 46
God grant each one of them His eternal peace and rest.

St. Faustina

Saint Maria Faustina was born in a village in Poland on August 25th 1905 Her first name was Helena Kowalska. Her family was poor but prayerful. As a child she loved to attend holy mass. She grew in faith and values, Her virtues of life helped her to love Jesus and she wanted to be a saint.

As Helena grew she felt some disturbances within her. As the days passed she discovered that God was calling her to become a servant. She tried to ignore it because of the family problems but Jesus waited patiently, One day Helena saw an astonishing vision, Jesus appeared to her covered with wounds and very sadly asked her how long would she put Him off? Helena ran to a nearby Cathedral to pray. She threw herself before the Blessed Sacrament and said: 'O my Jesus forgive me for neglecting you, please tell me what you want me to do. She pondered and kept deeper silence to discern God's will for her. Jesus told her to go at once to Poland where she must enter a convent. The next day itself she left her home and took a train to Warsaw. (Poland) She looked for a convent but was turned away again and again, finally she was welcomed by the Congregation of the Sisters of our Lady of Mercy. There she became a sister and took the name of Maria Faustina . While in convent Sr. Faustina had many opportunities to show mercy to others. Our Lord appeared to her many times because He was pleased with her compassion and obedience. On February 22 after returning from prayer something amazing happened to Sr.



Faustina, she received a profound vision of Jesus who appeared to her wearing a dazzling white robe. One hand was raised and the other was touching His garment at the chest. Two large rays of light one red and other pale white, were coming from His heart. St. Faustina was confused but convinced of God's mercy and Love for her. As the days passed Jesus again appeared to her and said: " Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature **Jesus I trust in you** Jesus promised anyone venerating this image will someday join Him in heaven. He said to her: **"I want this image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy"**. This was the start of an important mission for St. Faustina. Jesus taught her the chaplet of Divine Mercy. He told her that whoever recited this prayer and marks the hour of his death in even the smallest way will receive more graces than his soul could ever need.

St. Faustina died on Oct 5th 1938 and on April 30th 2000 she was canonized and proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II . He also established the Second Sunday of Easter as' Divine Mercy Sunday, just as Jesus had requested. St.Faustina is known as the Missionary of Divine Mercy, so let us increase our devotion to the Divine Mercy and keep Jesus as the Centre of our Life. Like St. Faustina let us remain faithful to our call and mission.

Sr. Dayana

Happy Birthday Dear Sisters

October

- 3. Sr. Anita D.
- 5. Sr. Divya
- 5. Sr. Flora
- 7. Sr. Arkan
- 13. Sr. Rita
- 20. Sr. Ida
- 22. Sr. Antoinette
- 23. Sr. Eliza
- 25. Sr. Advina

November

- 14. Sr. Prema
- 20. Sr. Theresa
- 24. Sr. Agnesia

December

- 2. Sr. Smita
- 8. Sr. Vandana
- 11. Sr. Karmela
- 12. Sr. Maria
- 14. Sr. Geeta
- 16. Sr. Rekha
- 19. Sr. Louisa
- 22. Sr. Nalini
- 23. Sr. Lissy
- 23. Sr. Perpet
- 27. Sr. Priti
- 28. Sr. Nancy
- 28. Sr. Savita
- 30. Sr. Shobhna



Snehalaya Garja, Jharkhand

Vision: To improve the life of young Adivasis with the values of Jesus and education.
No. of children 54 34 girls and 20 boys. The children go to the parish school.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Jyotsna



Maria Bhavan Boarding Magundi

Vision : Life to live, Joy to share
No.of children - 20/ age group 6- 16 yrs. Stds 1st to 10th .
They all attend the Kannada medium schools.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Sudhani



St. Theresa's Boarding Hidkal Dam

Vision: To enable the girls who stay far from the school to get a better education.
No. of Girls- Thirteen in the age group of 10 to 15 yrs.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Ejina



St. Ursula Boarding Dabhan

Vision : To enable children from villages for a better education and learning of values.
No of children 48. Some of them attend the English medium school while others go to the Gujarati medium.
They are in the age group of 7 to 14.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Savita



Sacred Heart Boarding : Pakertoli - Jharkhand

Vision : "To light up the paths of girls by giving quality education, a systematic instruction, animation and motivation for life needed at all levels".
No. of Boarders 34 girls. A mixed group of Catholic and Protestant Tribals
Age group Std. I VIII going to the Mission School run by the Simdega Diocese.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Rani



Rosary Cottage Boarding Phanawadi

Vision : To instill good values to live happily
No. of Children - 28- 20 girls and 8 boys
age group is from 5 to 15 years. The children attend English and Marathi medium school.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Amruta



Premanjali Boarding Maan

Vision : To enable every child the right for survival, protection and development
No of Children - 37 Age group - 5 to 15 years. The children attend Don Bosco English Medium/Semi-English school.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Priti



Seva Sadan Boarding Amod

Vision : To give the children of the villages an opportunity to get good education and also better amenities and values.
No. of Children 39. They are in the age group of 6 to 15 years. They attend the Gujarati medium school run by the parish Fathers.
Boarding in charge : Sr. Chaitralea

A Peep into our Boardings



News From India

Golden & Silver Jubilee Celebration



Discerning Together

In preparation for the General Chapter 2019, we had community-wise meetings in 5 different zones discussing our Transition Statutes. The follow up of these meetings were concluded as we met in Shanti Ashram on 25th August 2018. Representatives of sisters from different communities shared their findings. We had a fruitful dialogue on the animation of persons and governance at Congregational level.

An open mind and a discerning heart is essential as we further process on the suggestions made for the growth of the Congregation. As the General Chapter 2019 is approaching followed by the Provincial Chapter in 2020, let us unfold our deeper thoughts, concerns, queries, and

questions in a constructive growth promoting manner. We need to move out of our own mind sets, our prejudices, our apprehensions and assume a position of emotional and intellectual neutrality. Introspection and ongoing self examination with God's grace can help us to have a common responsibility towards God's mission. Feel free sisters to voice your opinions, your expressions in an amicable and empathetic way.

This could be the integral path of the Ursuline way of proceeding, divesting ourselves of all self-love, self-will, self-interest so that we can be little lamps committed to God's mission.

Sr. Rita

Conference of Religious Western Region

JDV 11-12 Sept 2018

'Net-working to uphold Inclusiveness and Democratic Values'

Around 70 participants took part which included Generals, Provincials, delegates and CRI core teams in the Annual General Meeting on 11-12 Sept at JDV, Pune.

Mrs. Teesta Setalvad, the resource person a social activist on 'protection of human rights' spoke on the democratic rights which are being attacked, assaulted and violated. This is all an attack on education and on Christians. She told us that the CJP (Citizens for Justice and Peace) for which they are working urges us to take urgent action to protect human rights in India. She also spoke on 'hate speech and hate violence'. The hate-watch campaign seeks to highlight those groups who engage in hate speech, seeking to divide Indian Society for personal or political gain and hold them accountable.

Unfortunately, this kind of hatred is being spread to the vulnerable sections of the Society like the women, dalits, and tribals in the North, North East, in Gujarat and in other varied sections of our Country. In this context, where is the

Church? How can we be effective in today's context? How can we be all inclusive to fight against such oppression in our Society?

Some of the proposed suggestions are :-

- Collaborate with existing initiatives and ministries
- Co-ordinate with other religions, understand their culture
- Social and democratic values to be inculcated through our ministries.
- Have passion and give priority to rural mission, to the weaker sections of the Society.
- Listen to people and be open to their suggestions.
- Be the change you want to see in others.

These are some ways which can help us to move towards inclusiveness, thus to empower people in our Society. In this way we can be a source of help to the CRI to become more effective in net-working and inclusiveness.

Sr. Susanne

Girl Child's Day celebration in Ashirvad Nivas

Swamini (an orphan girl, who spent more than 4 years here in Ashirvad Nivas) had her birthday in the beginning of September. As usual, after our morning prayer with the inmates, we sang for her and wished her. She burst out crying; and the other girls too started weeping and consoling her. No one spoke. But everyone knew why they were crying Swamini came here as a young girl and now she is an adolescent - a time when she misses her mother, her family, especially on her birthday. It was then, that we decided to celebrate their birthday on the girl child's day as it is also the birthdays of our Heavenly Mother. We decided to make it a memorable day for them; and it was indeed a special day for our girls.



They were already looking forward to the day with great excitement and joy. The celebrations began with a short prayer service, specially prepared for them; cutting of the birthday cake, games and prizes followed. We sisters prepared a grand meal for the occasion and all of us; especially our girl children had an enjoyable day. In the evening they accompanied us to the church for the mass and a prayerful evening.

Sr. Marina

Dates to Remember in 2018

1. Triduum in Gujarat - 10, 11, 12 Oct.
2. Triduum in Pune - 18, 19, 20 Oct.
3. Jubilee Celebration - 21 Oct.
4. Batch wise gathering - 14 to 16 Nov.
First Vows 2001 to 2006
5. School Personnel Meeting- 1 Dec
6. Social work Personnel Meeting - 8 Dec. in Maan
7. Junior's Programme - 27-30 Dec.

Global News

Jubilee Celebration in Brig / Switzerland



Platinum Jubilee - 70 years:

Sr. Kunigunde

Diamond Jubilee - 60 years :

Sr. Christophora, Sr. Alfreda, Sr. Rosina, Sr. Ulrika, Sr. Priska, Sr. Callista

Golden Jubilee - 50 years: Sr. Cecile

On the 15th August 2018 was a great and wonderful Celebration in the Parish Church Brig. The thanks giving Mass was also like a witness of perseverance for all the people who joined in the Celebration. The following day in the evening the Celebration went on in our Community. Sr. Pirmine was in action with a meditation play "the Fire flute", with pictures and a story of a shepherd. Sr. Siegrun was playing the flute. Afterwards it was a nice time together with all the Sisters.

Sr. Rosina and Jubilarians

Africa Provincial Chapter & Chapter of Affairs



'What thanks, O Lord, can we render thee, for all the gifts thou has showered on us'

The theme of our chapter was "embracing the present reality with hope." Fr. Alphoso Masuna during the Eucharist gave a meaningful homily highlighting religious life emphasizing of going back to our roots in the spirit of Mother Anne. Sr. Pushpa our Mother General declared the chapter opened, welcomed us & reminded us the importance of the chapter. She re-appointed Sr. Mary Shange as the provincial of S.A. & asked her to moderate the chapter. Our present leadership Team- Sr. Mary Shange : Provincial superior. Sr. Antonia Khathi: Assistant superior. Sr. Martha Shezi: Sr. Cecilia Mavuthela : Councillors. We

congratulate & thank you dear sisters & we assure you of our prayers & support. We appreciate the very presence of Sr. Pushpa & Sr. Augusta with us during our chapter & their keen interest, love, prayerful support & all that they do for the growth of S.A. province. A heartfelt thanks to Sr. Mary Shange for shouldering the responsibility of S.A. province with genuine love, concern, commitment, dedication, hard work & systematic way of functioning. We appreciate each sister for their collaboration, prayerful support of our sisters from mother house & India. Let us strive together to keep alive the vision & mission of our venerable Mother Anne. Let us be united in love & prayers.

Ursuline Sisters S.A.

ROMANIA ACTIVITIES - 2018



In every experience GOD helps and challenges us to see new things that the Lord is doing in our midst.

We had 170 children who participated in four different camps, two of which were conducted in our campus and the others in two different village schools. The theme

chosen for the small children was **'WONDERFUL WORLD and for the big children LET US HOLD HANDS AND WALK TOGETHER.'** According to the theme different activities were conducted to bring out the best from every child. Collaboration with the lay animators and different NGO's was something very enriching.

This year we had 11 children for the first Holy Communion and 19 candidates for the confirmation. We had different spiritual and recreative activities held for children, prayer group, parishioners, youth and for the hostel girls.

Giving a listening ear and reaching out to the needy, sick and elderly helps us to be partakers in God's mission. Thank you dear sisters for your prayerful support and encouraging words.

Sisters Marie Therese, Joseline and Prerita