



Ursuline Links

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April - June 2019

EDITORIAL

Reflections on a New School Year

The beginning of an academic year is always exciting. What will this year bring?

We do not know. It will likely bring us its usual times of work and play, experiences of learning, newness, success and challenges, All things that are part of school life.

It's a new beginning. The planting of a seed that will grow for a year. The seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come. It offers new hope; hope for good work, for successful results, for friendship, for fun, for learning.

As we begin this new school year in hope, in prayer and friendship, may God begin it with us, be with us during this year, and successfully bring it to its conclusion.! As we lurch towards the new academic year 2019-2020 here are some suggestions which may be helpful to make your kids in your class feel warm, welcome, and wanted.

1. Squeaky Wheel

As teachers and guides, we need to be ever mindful of the fact that the squeaky wheel *needs* the grease, that's why it's squeaking. If you don't apply the grease, the wheel is likely to fall off the wagon or bring the wagon to a screeching halt! One of the most troubling phrases in education currently is "attention-seeking behaviour". Our approach to such behaviour is to ignore the child. You may choose to ignore the behaviour... but you can't ignore the underlying need.

2. Every child is motivated in a different way

Teachers must also use a variety of motivational approaches. There are six basic "drives" that inspire students to strive toward their fullest potential. They include:

Praise, People, Prizes, Projects. Prestige, Power



3. Entrusted, with a precious gift

This academic year parents will have entrusted you with their most prized possession their child. You must view this trust as a sacred and humbling responsibility.

4. Each year is a new year

It is important that you take this perspective in order to make the year successful for you and your students. Learn new teaching skills. Try different approaches. Change your bulletin boards. Modify your methods. Re-arrange your room. Keep your teaching fresh!

You should also remember that June marks a "New Year" for your students, too. Give them an opportunity for a fresh start. Don't let difficulties or issues from *last* year spill over into *this* year. Wipe the slate clean.

June marks a new year with new possibilities. Allow each child to enter your room with a clean slate. Give them an opportunity to re-invent themselves. Let them start over. For some kids, this may be the greatest gift you will give them this year. Make the best of this year for you and for your children as you strive to make a difference in their lives.

Sr. Susanne

MY Life My Message

“Consecrated Life is beautiful and is one of the most precious treasures of the Church” Pope Francis . Nuclear families and technology is making life so comfortable, that the choice of living a consecrated life is very hard to understand and even to think of today. The entire Church is experiencing a drastic drop in vocations, and yet in some places we see that there is still hope. So actually what are we doing or what can we do ? Reflecting on this, I recall the words of Mother Anne, ***“To enkindle the fire of devotion in others ,our own must be living and profound .”*** Mother Anne burned with the fire of devotion which involved her deep intimacy with the Lord and then this fire burned intensely as she desired to make Jesus Christ known and Loved .

The exemplary work of the Jesuits for young men at the Godran College inspired Anne. From then on began the fire in her to devote her life for the girls based on this model.

To let this fire keep burning was not an easy task for Mother Anne who had to make crucial choices in her life-Dole or Dijon. Dole was an enemy country and she would be totally alienated from both friends and parents. At Dijon she would be supported by them. She wondered what to choose. At these moments she turned to her Adorable Master. Thus the experience at the Church confirmed her decision and Anne was confident of Dole.

Anne never wanted to disregard her parents or cause pain to them. From this point of view her life is inspiring. Hence she waited for an opportune moment

to leave home. It was in an argument, that she once had with her father who told her that she could leave the house. Even though she knew her father was trying his best to pull her back, she did return when she heard of her mother's illness. Though from within she didn't like the idea of being in Dijon, she let the spirit of her work go on. She kept up her piety with her prayers, visits to the sick and catechism classes. She went through a period of intense pain, struggle and opposition. She wished to leave for Dole only with their consent and blessings, which they finally gave her.

Anne's moments with her Adorable Master were moments of strength ,intimacy and consolation. Such experiences of intimacy gave her confidence to carry out His plan for her. Inspired by her good works, many women of the same mind, joined her and with them, she founded the Society on 16th June 1606 after long years of struggle and opposition. Her life, virtues, and acts simply overwhelm us and we wonder at her Courage, Determination, Perseverance and Faith.

Once upon visiting Bengal, Gandhiji was asked to give a message to the people of India, to which he responded, ***“My Life is My Message.”***

Our own lives have to be the best advertisement. The words of ***MOTHER ANNE ARE SO APT AND TRUE EVEN TODAY.*** Let's then sow seeds of vocations by living each day the virtues of Mother Anne and thus give glory to God.

Sr. Valery

GENERAL CHAPTER OF AFFAIRS MAY- 2019 - Switzerland

The General Chapter of affairs was held from 8th - 10th May 2019 in Brig. It was a time to reflect back on our past, a time to look forward to the future with a wider outlook on life, a time to reflect together how we can live out our lives in the best way possible, according to the principles laid down by Mother Anne, and a time to strengthen the bond of relationship among the Sisters of Brig, S. Africa and India

On 7th May, Fr. Toni Kurmann S.J gave us an input session. He said, “The Trinity looking down on the earth was moved with pity and sent Jesus.” If we have to be true missionaries today we have to learn to look at the world with a non- prejudiced eye, with an eye that embraces all. The more we come to know of the world and its plight, and see as God wants to see, the more we reach out to mission with zest and enthusiasm. Vat.II brought out a remarkable statement “People of every faith can reach

salvation.”So in the light of the above we are called to re-understand mission today.

The following days as we preceded with the Chapter Agenda we could feel the power of the Holy Spirit moving among us. Each one was given sufficient time to express one self and ask for clarification. When it came to the context of the Church in India, apart from all its blessings we realized that there is so much brokenness in the families today. So we took up the decision, **[a] that every member of the community visits at least one family in a week, to listen to them with a listening heart because genuine listening heals. [b] To make time for a younger person or an adult, who is facing challenges of life and is unable to handle them.**

We, the delegates take this opportunity to thank Sr. Pushpa, and the preparatory committee for painstakingly doing the ground work for the Chapter



which was very effective .

With grateful hearts, we recall to mind, Sr. Nicole and all the sisters of Brig for being sensitive to our needs. We thank them for their warmth of love and hospitality. Thanks to Sr. Rita, who in advance took the trouble of arranging sessions with Fr. Bhausahab S.J., making us familiar with Spiritual Conversation and Discernment. Thanks to Sr. Rekha who has worked

behind the scene so that the General Chapter could go ahead well.

All throughout the Chapter, we could feel the power of the Holy Spirit hovering over us and thus enabling us to speak with inner freedom. There was a flow of speaking and listening, a feeling of binding that we all are one to make our mission alive. May this General Chapter bring about greater fruits for the glory of God.

Sr. Sunita

JULY

- 4. Sr. Arpita
- 9. Sr. Vanita
- 10. Sr. Leena
- 10. Sr. Johncy
- 20. Sr. Leela
- 21. Sr. Diya
- 26. Sr. Elizabeth

AUGUST

- 1. Sr. Johanna
- 2. Sr. Jyotsna
- 4. Sr. Alina
- 11. Sr. Lilly
- 11. Sr. Sabina
- 12. Sr. Susanne
- 13. Sr. Lucy
- 15. Sr. Sandhya
- 15. Sr. Nilima
- 19. Sr. Ejina
- 20. Sr. Karuna
- 20. Sr. Veena
- 21. Sr. Prerita
- 28. Sr. Jenifer
- 31. Sr. Nilu
- 31. Sr. Dayana
- 31. Sr. Jyotika

SEPTEMBER

- 1. Sr. Magdalena
- 8. Sr. Surekha
- 8. Sr. Mercian
- 9. Sr. Jancy
- 15. Sr. Franciska
- 15. Sr. Dipika Parmar
- 20. Sr. Maya
- 21. Sr. Sintihya
- 24. Sr. Josephine
- 28. Sr. Marie Therese
- 29. Sr. Sunita
- 30. Sr. Valery

Happy Birthday Dear Sisters

FORMATION

1. Candidature: 18 Candidates

In charge - Sr. Gracy, Assistant - Sr. Neli Rose

Aims and Objectives:

To help the formees to discern their call and to deepen their love for Christ, to love and serve Him in others.



3. Juniorate: 23 juniors

Junior Mistress - Sr. Marina

Aims and Objectives:

To long for a deeper union with God, to grow in interpersonal relationships in community and to learn various skills for effective Mission.



2. Novitiate 8 novices, 5 pre-novices

Novice Mistress - Sr. Lissy, Assistant - Sr. Diya

Aims and Objectives:

To form one's character and conscience through regular personal prayer, self & group evaluation, guidance, and to know the spirit and mission of the Society.



On-Going Formation: Spiritual & Academic

Aims and Objectives:

To grow in self-confidence and positive self-esteem. Updating oneself in knowledge and skills for God's Mission.

a) Spiritual

- i) Sr. Eliza - Renewal Vincentian Spirituality Centre- Assam
- ii) Srs. Anusha, Veena, Ranita - One Year Theology at Mater Dei - Goa

b) Academic-

- i) Nursing Sr. Karmela - 3rd Year Holy Spirit Hospital Mumbai
Sr. Sushila - 2nd Year - St. Joseph School of Nursing - Hoshangabad Madhya Pradesh
- ii) B.Ed. Sr. Anita - 2nd Year St. Theresa College Mumbai
Srs. Miriam, Ida, Maryanne - 1st Year Mumbai

Snippets of Ignatian Spirituality

St. Ignatius the Prayerful Person

In this issue let us dwell on the prayerfulness of the person of St. Ignatius. Let's listen to the historical roots of the prayerfulness of St. Ignatius.

Broadly speaking we can say that St. Ignatius opened a unique school, a school with a difference. It was known and is still known as the 'School of Prayer'. Ignatius knew the syllabi, contents and methods of the schools of prayer of his time. Ignatius did much to popularize the teachings on prayer and presented them in a much more simplified and practical way that proved to be very effective, transformative and fruitful.

Ignatius, for a long time was associated with the prayer, Soul of Christ, so much so, that at times he has been identified as its author. Since 1583 this prayer has been prefixed in the Spiritual Exercises. It sums up the whole movement of the Spiritual Exercises of its Christ-centeredness. The prayer line by line focuses our getting more totally within the person of Christ or as if we live only in Him.

Taking on the Spirituality of St. Ignatius

We the Ursulines follow the spirituality of St. Ignatius. Our Mother Foundress looked up to the Jesuits of her time for direction and guidance to lead and guide our Congregation. Like

Ignatius, Anne too was a woman of deep prayer and discernment. She said, "It would be presumptuous for a Christian to strive for union with God while remaining attached to the things of this earth. Like Moses, he must first remove the shoes of the earth before he can approach the burning bush of God's love".

Sr. Susanne



Dates to Remember

Arrival of Sr. Pushpa & Sr. Augusta for Provincial Chapter and Visitation 17th Oct. 2019

Jubilee Celebrations - Golden - Sr. Anne & Sr. Angela, Silver - Sr. Rita & Sr. Valery 21st Oct. 2019

Province Chapter of Affairs - 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th Oct. 2019

Province Chapter of Elections - 4th Jan. 2020

Province Chapter in India 2019-2020

To extend the reign of Jesus Christ for the glory of God the Father was the one desire of Venerable Annd de Xainctonge. Imbibing her spirit down the four centuries, let us continue to seek her inspiration as we begin preparing for the Province Chapter 2019-2020.

A Chapter is a moment of Grace. It's an opportunity to look back in gratitude and to look to the future with hope. My Congregation is My Home, My Mother. The status of my life is the status of the Congregation. I renew my life in order to renew my Congregation. The General Chapter in May 2019 emphasized on going

back to the roots and strengthening ourselves reflecting and living the spirit and charism of Mother Anne.

The questionnaires sent to you will help you to introspect oneself- my formation that helps me in my Community and Mission. The purpose of the Chapter preparatory meetings in July is to become self-transformative in my outlook towards my life and mission. I need to be the change that I want to make. May we be deeply rooted in the Heart of Christ from where flows springs of love and forgiveness.

Sr. Rita

OBITUARY

Sr. Lavina's Father expired on 18th May 2019. He was 78 years old.

He died of a massive heart attack. R.I.P

Sr. Joseline's Father expired on 29th June 2019. He was 84 years old. He was ailing for some time in the hospital.

R.I.P.



A Visit to Romania

Recently Sr. Rita and I visited Romania. It was an overwhelming experience for me to spend a few days amidst the wonderful people of Romania. They are exuberant, resilient, hospitable, warm and loving. As we were there only for a week, my impression about Romanians may be limited, but I think for our nine sisters who worked there; the experience has been mostly pleasant. In spite of the difficulties and challenges of living and working in a foreign land, the cheerfulness, friendly nature and optimism of most of the native people, kept them going.

It also spoke about the excellent rapport our sisters have and had with the local people there. Though the church there is divided (and there are problems too) into different groups like, Greek Catholics, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants etc. we met many people who are able to see others as human beings and not as members of some group.

We witnessed our sisters being involved in taking care of 20 girls in the hostel, doing pastoral work, visiting families, the sick and the old. I was impressed to listen to Maria a 90 year old who lost her husband and has no children. She said, "I have no children but these sisters are my children. They are here whenever I need someone."

We wish our sisters all the best for conducting the summer camp in many different places. May God continue to bless them abundantly as they carry on the mission entrusted to them.

Sr. Marina



A pilgrimage to Dole and Dijon



It was a memorable experience for Srs. Jolly, Valery and myself as Sr. Nicole accompanied us to Dijon and Dole on 12th and 13th May 2019. After a four hours drive from Brig we reached Dole. As we entered the city we were surprised to see a beautiful 3D type painting on a building wall, of great personalities who had contributed to the city's growth in the past and Mother Anne's picture was among them. Our Foundress' painful and sincere efforts to uplift the women of that time, is still remembered with gratitude and honour.

As we visited the important places of Mother Anne in Dijon, Mont Roland in Dole, Madam Duzin's house, the pond, the sisters of federation in Dole....., we felt that Mother Anne is asking us to go back to the roots of our

Mission namely **FAITH FORMATION**

It is the spirit of our Foundress **her love for God, her determination and conviction to do God's will, her enthusiasm to accompany others to God, her readiness to do penance and mortification, her compassion for the less privileged, her courage to stand up for what is right and just, her humility and honesty to be true to herself, her will power to persevere till the end, her resilience, zeal, modesty, single minded devotion to the One who called her,** that we have to carry on.

We are deeply grateful to Sr.Pushpa for arranging this trip for us and to Sr. Nicole for taking us in spite of her busy schedule and health problems.

Sr. Marina

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR SISTERS

First & Final Vow- 1st May 2019



First Profession: Sr. Rashmita, Sr. Francina, Sr. Suman, Sr. Junita, Sr. Sekhasini, Sr. Nilima, Sr. Monica & Sr. Sabina
Final Profession : Sr. Sudhani, Sr. Anusha & Sr. Ranita

Seminar on the ANAMED TRAINING - Nashik 3rd - 6th June 2019 (Action For Natural Medicine)



Outcome of the Seminar:

1. To create our own garden of medicinal plants.
2. To prepare natural medicines.
3. To treat oneself and others.
4. To motivate people to use natural medicine and influence of good nutrition and lifestyle on health.
5. To create more traditional, herbal and practical medicine.

Sr. Karuna