



News Update

The Word...Lived...Shared



Sisters of Notre Dame, Patna

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July 2019

Friday, JULY 12th, 2019 ... dawned bright and sunny with the Sunshine of God's Goodness streaming in and out the Patna Community gathered together in prayer to celebrate the Birthday of our Spiritual Mother, and to commemorate the golden Jubilee of Julie's Sainthood.



ST. JULIE – SAINT FOR ALL SEASONS!

We honored St. Julie, a Woman of deep faith, simplicity, and steadfast courage; a Woman who knew how to believe and how to love and to reach out to the poor of her times; a Woman who endured hardships, challenges, with unshakeable trust in God Alone... "SOLI DEO."

During the Morning Prayer, we also celebrated the gift of Sister Mary Tessa, our Provincial Superior, on her name day. As an

expression of our gratitude, praise and thanksgiving, we offered the Arati asking God's Blessing of light and wisdom upon Sister. We celebrated the gift of Sister, as a "Woman of Beatitudes" that are reflected in the life of Sister and experienced in our Patna community and in the Assumption Province in her ministry of Leadership.

St. Julie's day was celebrated with much festivity by the students of Notre Dame Academy and Julie School. During the special Assembly, the students portrayed memorable events in the life of St. Julie through drama, songs and lively dances. The whole programme was a glowing tribute to St. Julie!

Gratitude to God leads to a thankful spirit. It is this attitude of gratefulness that has become our life's Beatitude. With these sentiments alive in our hearts, we as a community of faith, gathered once again at the end of the day to offer our evening Prayer in honor of ST. JULIE- SAINT FOR ALL SEASONS. The Chapel was decorated with meaningful, significant Symbols in the life of St. Julie and every Sister of Notre Dame: the Cross - Coesfeld Cross; the Sunflower, open hands offering praise, adoration and worship; re-echoing St. Julie's refrain... "Oh! How good is our dear Good God!" The Glorious CROSS... a sign of blessing upon Notre Dame, empowering each Sister to go forth on fire for Mission.

Sister Mary Sharan SND

Final Profession 2019



“The Almighty has done great things for me, holy is his name” June 1st 2019 was such a climax of this experience for the four of us- Sisters Mary Priyanka, Sushila Kisku, Anjali Jacob and Archana- who had the privilege of committing ourselves fully to the good God. God's faithful love and provident care has been sustaining us in our following of Jesus. The perpetual profession ceremony began at 6:30am in the Provincial House Chapel. Most Reverent William D'souza SJ, the Archbishop of Patna concelebrated the Holy Mass with Fr. Noble and Fr. Alex and fathers from the neighbouring communities. The whole ceremony was very inspiring, heart warming and touching for us, for our parents, Sisters and all the invitees. The Angelic singing and beautiful decorations in the chapel added to the solemnity of the occasion. There was a

cake cutting ceremony after the Holy Mass, followed by a wishing song by the Junior Sisters. It was a unique and unforgettable event for us and for our families. We are deeply indebted to Sister Mary Kristin, Sister Mary Tessy, Sister Mary Sujita and all our sisters who, true to our constitutions, have been supporting us either directly or indirectly. May your prayer continue to sustain us to be true and fruitful Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sisters Mary Priyanka,
Sushila Kisku,
Anjali Jacob,
Archana

A Day to Remember



July 16th was a very memorable day for the seven of us postulants. We experienced God's love for us and we praise God for the precious gift of our holy vocation.

We had two days of recollection in preparation for our entrance into postulancy. Sister Mary Shobana who is a very loving, spirit-filled and exuberant person guided our recollection. Sister was a great help to each of us to experience the goodness of God in our lives. We learnt to surrender our lives to Jesus. These days were very crucial for each of us to experience God's presence. We thank God and Sister Mary Shobana.

(Bhavya)

The chapel was decorated so beautifully by the Juniors for our entrance day. The attractive arrangement of bouquets and plants in front of the altar with tiny coloured lights flickering created an atmosphere for prayer and celebration. The seven of us sat on chairs right in front of the altar. I felt I was in heaven.

(Supriya)

The theme of our prayer was "Chosen vessels. Each vessel was different from the others in weight, colour and shape. The material used too was different: gold, silver, bronze, diamond, glass, wood and clay. All the vessels were filled to the brim to be poured out as

Jesus did. God moulded each of us postulants and shaped us like the beautiful vessels we were holding. The theme was very inspiring for us. All the vessels were precious to Jesus and to each of us.

(Ankita)

We were received into the postulancy during a very inspiring prayer service led by Sister Mary Namrata our directress. Sister explained the meaning of each vessel we were holding. We praised and thanked God for calling us to follow Jesus more closely in religious life. The important moment was when Sister Mary Tessy, our provincial superior, received us into the postulancy as she gave each of us the postulant's medal. In her speech she welcomed us into the postulancy to be part of the big Notre Dame family. The Sisters prayed for us and for blessings upon our families. During the prayer we experienced the presence of God in a special way.

(Anamika)

After the solemn prayer service in the chapel we were led to the Sisters' refectory with dancing and singing to the beat of the Mandar. The Sisters were dancing too. We felt that God loves us and our Sisters love us, too.

(Seema)

As we processed into the refectory the candidates sang a wishing song. Then, the seven of us were invited to cut the cake. After that all the Sisters and candidates congratulated us with hugs and many good wishes. Then we began the festive meal. There were many items of food, including chicken and icecream.

(Anu)

We felt so happy. We felt we were really the chosen ones. Jesus loves us and that is why he called us. We are precious to Jesus.

(Sunari)

Recalling our Renewal Days

It is with great joy and gratitude that we the ten Silver Jubilarians: Sisters Mary Reshma, Philo, Veena, Neha, Priya, Jessy Jacob, Sushmita, Kiran, Sunita A. and Supriya, recall the renewal days at Najafgarh from May 6th –24th, 2019. Sisters from North and the South were warmly welcomed and wished by the community at Najafgarh with an inspiring prayer service for a fruitful renewal.



“Approach yourself with respect and love. All that you need is within yourself. It is just a matter of noticing them.” The first week's session conducted by Sr. Mary Ruby led us through an inward journey of our past life experiences. We were deeply grateful to see God's powerful hand working in us at all times.

“Vowed life is a free gift of God which helps us to respond to Him in love and freedom.” Sr. Beena's input sessions on consecrated life helped us to appreciate our life of commitment and freedom. We deepened our understanding of the vows and got many insights to live our vows meaningfully in the present context.

“To stand before God we need amazing grace like that of St. Paul, a theologian of grace.” Fr. Valan C. Antony, S.J. helped us to know Jesus through the life of St. Paul. We were captured by the spirit of St. Paul for giving Christ Jesus to the people we are missioned to.

The retreat days were the best days to count the innumerable blessings of the Lord and to gain spiritual strength for the days ahead.

We are deeply grateful to Sr. Mary Tessy for providing us this opportunity of renewing our life for our continuing life and mission. We are indebted to Sr. Ruby for accompanying, guiding and arranging the resource persons for us. We were also privileged to have outings on weekends to relax and enjoy our togetherness.

We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Sr. Mary Deepti and the community for the hospitality and generous love lavished on us. They had to make many sacrifices to provide us the best accommodation and delicious and healthy food every day. Our sincere thanks are due to all the sisters for your prayerful support throughout our renewal days. Special thanks to our community members for taking care of our responsibilities in our absence.

How Good is the Dear Good God!

Residential Special Training, Chaithanya, Sheikhpura



There are 150 kishories in Chaithanya from 53 villages of Sheikhpura District of the State of Bihar. The girls have been selected from five Blocks of Sheikhpura. The number of girls admitted from each Block is as follows: Sheikhpura Block 63, Chewara Block 28, Ariari Block 47, Sheikhpursarai Block 1 and Barbigha Block 11. Out of 150 girls 137 belong to Scheduled Caste Groups (73 Musahar) and 13 Other Backward Caste Groups. There was a long delay in getting the needed permissions and a time of uncertainty due to the issues of residential programmes in other districts, General Election and great number of transfers in Government departments. The MOU was signed for nine months for the Residential Special Training (RST) from 28th of March 2019. 150 girls had already been

admitted in July. We experienced the providence of God when a generous donor offered to meet the expenses for the 150 girls for the interim period- from 26th July 2018 to 28th March 2019.

There are 11 Residential and three non residential staff for the RST whose committed and dedicated service helps the girls bloom and shine. The Kishories feel at home and put much effort in understanding the subjects and in developing their skills gradually. Being from the backward groups it is a challenge for the teachers to train the girls to cultivate good habits in personal hygiene, self care, good manners and excellence in studies.

(Sister Udaya SND)

Pastoral Ministry at Thrikaipetta



The Sisters at Thrikaipetta, Kerala are involved in the pastoral ministry of the Diocese of Calicut and very specially of St. George's parish, Thrikaipetta. Every day we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church at 5.45 am. We pray the Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, and intercessory prayers followed by Holy Mass at 7.am. The 82 families in the parish are divided into 6 units and each Sister is incharge of 2 units. The Pastoral Council, is divided into 6 departments: pastoral, social, educational, youth, and family. We attend the meetings of the Council in the Parish, the Deanery and Diocesan level. We visit the sick and the families that need counseling and prayer.

Diocesan Youth Convention: About 500 youth from 42 parishes came together on 11th to 12th May 2019. St. George Church Thrikkaipetta was awarded for the maximum number of participants. The Bishop, the Vicar General, and the youth director Fr. Jaison thanked and congratulated the parish priest Fr. Lal Philip and the Animator Sr. Mamta for motivating and bringing together the youth. The climax and most exciting event was the colourful rally in

Calicut town holding the Papal Flag and the yellow and white balloons.

First Holy Communion: On 19th May five children received Jesus the first time. The Vicar General of Kannur Diocese, Fr. Pious, the grand uncle of Anlin Martin, one of the First Communicants, was the celebrant of the Holy Mass. Anlin told Sr. Jyotsna that she was coming to the convent to register her name to become a sister.

Baptism: Within the month of May we had four babies baptised, two sets of twins. They were the fourth and fifth children of Mr. and Mrs. Binesh. They were awarded by the Diocese and by the Parish.

Catechism: Catechism department is well organized and managed in the diocese. The teachers have to write lesson plan, logos quiz and conduct the Catechism exam every year. Surprise inspections are done by the diocese and graded. Sr M Jyotsna is the treasurer of the catechism department. Sr. Mamta and Sr. Rose teach Catechism.

Sister Mary Mamta



Congratulations to:
MARYAM Raza Khan
 Notre Dame Academy, Patna
 Bihar topper of Class XII
 CBSE Board Exam, 2018-2019

Notre Dame Girls' Higher Secondary School, Musgutri



Officer (C.O) of Bagicha, was welcomed and escorted to the venue by our school band. The C.O. was thrilled to see such an efficient band in a school at a village like ours. So the C.O. announced that he would gift Rs.11,000 for our school band

July 20th, 2019 was another day of great rejoicing for our school. Mr. Money Ram Yadav, the Block Development Officer (BEO) of

Bagicha, distributed 133 cycles to the girls of ST/SC, and OBC category. This is a wonderful scheme of Chattisgarh Government to encourage the girls to complete their Higher Secondary education. Many Students have to walk 4 to 5 KM to come to school. This scheme is called "Chief Minister Saraswati Cycle Yojana". Now the Students will be able to come on time for the class. Thank you dear, Sisters for your prayerful support.

We started our new academic Year on June 24th 2019. We have 500 girls in our School coming from all over the Jashpur Diocese. At the very beginning of the academic year, we had many reasons to thank God for. Sapna Apurwa was declared one of the State toppers of Chattisgarh Board Examination of Class 10th and she was felicitated on June 27th.

Another big event was the Block level football tournament on July 18th 2019. It was organized by the Collector of Jashpur, Chirsagar Mahadev. Our Chief Guest, the Circle

Sister Mary Philo SND

Grace Time: Sabbatical Year



At the Congregational and Provincial level I am given an opportunity to share my expertise with our sisters from all over the world through the international website of our congregation by preparing the course on missiology which is my specialization and which will be recorded, translated into various languages of the country where our sisters are ministering for which I remain grateful to Sisters Kristin, Sreeja and the General Government; Sisters Mary Tessa, Nishkalanka and the provincial Council.

What is Sabbatical? A sabbatical (from Hebrew: shabbat (שבת) (i.e., Sabbath), in Latin: sabbaticus, in Greek: sabbatikos (σαββατικός)) is a rest or break from work.

What is the purpose of sabbatical?

The purpose of the sabbatical leave is to provide faculty members with an opportunity for further professional growth and development so that they may serve more effectively in their field of specialization. I express my gratitude to the United Theological College, Bengaluru which recognized my dedicated and sincere contribution to the life of the college and gave me one year of sabbatical with full payment.

So what does one do during their sabbatical in order to merit this incredible privilege?

I will be visiting and sharing my expertise with Sisters, Juniors, Novices and Postulants in Philippines, Rome and Africa. May our time together be a time of learning, unlearning, agreeing, disagreeing, debating, reflecting, sharing and acting.

Simultaneously I am working on a book "Mission Flows from the Heart of God" which will be the fruit of my one year Sabbatical.

I am both humbled and excited for the chance to allow God to renew me for another seven years and beyond! I think every academic needs a sabbatical year to explore and re-invigorate one self.

United with you in the Mission of Jesus
Prof. Sr. Dr. Mary Shruti Joseph, SND

Archdiocese of Patna - (19019-2019)

The Archdiocese is celebrating in a big way the Centenary of the founding of Patna Diocese. We, the Sisters of Notre Dame, are part of that history for 70 years. The following is a listing of the high points of the history of Patna Archdiocese. The information is based on the Patna Diocesan Directory

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1610 - A Jesuit Missionary, Fr. Simon Figuerre came to Patna on the invitation of the Mughal Governor. The mission had to be closed after a year because of opposition from a section of the people.

1703- the Holy See created the 'Tibet-Hindustan Mission'.

1707-The Italian Capuchins (OFM) came to Patna, erected a hospice in Patna City.

1745-Fr. Joseph Mary OFM founded the Bettiah Mission

1769-The mission in Nepal had to be abandoned. 5 missionaries and 62 Nepali Christians came to India and settled in the Chuhari area.

1784-The Capuchins were given the added responsibility of the Prefecture of the North-west India. Patna continued to be the head quarters of the Mission.

1820-The Prefecture of Patna was raised to “Vicariate Apostolic” with its headquarters in Agra.

1845-The Vicariate was bifurcated creating “Patna Vicariate Apostolic”. Bishop Anastasius Hartmann (OFM) was appointed as the Bishop of the Vicariate Apostolic of Patna with: Patna, Bettiah, Chuhari, Danapur, Munger, and Purnea Missions.

1849-Bishop Hartmann was appointed Adminstator Apostolic of Bombay and Dr. Athanasius Zuber became the Co-adjutor Bishop of Patna Vicariate and later, the Bishop of Patna Vicariate.

1859-Bishop Hartmann was re-appointed as Bishop of Patna and served here until his death in 1866.

1868-Allhabad became the headquarters of the Vicariate Apostolic with Rt. Rev. Paul Tosi as Bishop.

1886-The vicariate of Patna was erected with the name “Allahabad Diocese”.

1919 (September 10th) Allahabad Diocese was divided creating the new Patna Diocese with Central Bihar, Bettiah and Nepal missions.

Bishopps of Patna Diocese (1919-2019)

Rt. Rev. Louis Von Hoeck, SJ (1921-1928);

Rt. Rev. Bernard Sullivan, SJ (1929-1946);

Rt. Rev. Augustin Wildermuth, SJ (1947-1980)

Rt. Rev. Benedict Osta SJ. (1980-1999)

Archbishops of Patna

Most Rev. Benedict Osta (1999-2007)

Most Rev. William D’ Souza (2007-)

Rt. Rev. Sebastian Kallupura was appointed Co-adjutor Bishop of Patna Archdiocese. (2018)

Bifurcation and Creation of New Dioceses

1956- Bhagalpur became a Prefecture and in 1965 the Diocese of Bhagalpur with Bishop Urban Mc Garry T.O.R. as the first Bishop.

1980 Patna Diocese was divided creating the Diocese of Muzaffarpur with Rt. Rev. John Thakur as the Bishop

1984 The Nepal Mission was separated from Patna.

1998 Bettiah Diocese was carved out from Muzaffarpur diocese with Rt. Rev. Victor Henry Thakur as the Bishop.

2005 Patna Archdiocese was bifurcaed forming the Diocese of Buxar with Rt. Rev. William D'Souza, SJ as the first Bishop of Buxar.

2019 Centenary celebration of Patna Diocese

A beautiful experience on the Feast day of St. Julie to be cherished... and lived



Today is Julie day and I feel this is the best feast I celebrated ever. No voice of celebration. No special prayer services! No special food! Everything as it is... with minimum basic amenities. And what makes this day very special to me is that we were here in the Nari Gungan Hostel in Danapur with 126 mussahar students who are bubbling with life. I feel this is the real desire of St. Julie, that these kids, too, may have a bright future. And I believe she is very happy to come here and spend her feast with us. Her call was for the poorest of the poor. And here I'm very much touched and inspired by the marvelous work of Sr. Sudha. She is truly the beloved daughter of St. Julie. And I feel this is the big gift that I can give to our mother Julie on this feast: my presence here with these little ones.

**Sister M. Renu and
Sister M. Anjali Jacob**

Asha Kiran Home for Girls

On July 12, 2019 on the Feast of St. Julie, the children of Asha Kiran who were going to Notre Dame Julie School had a celebration. They participated in various cultural events and it was a new and enriching experience for our children. In the evening they had a special gathering with the Postulants. It was a memorable day for all the children to understand and appreciate the life of the Sisters who are spiritual daughters of St. Julie.

Srs. Mary Kavita, Namrata, Jyotisha, Alka and Sr. M Fatima from Visitation Province were present on the occasion. The children enjoyed thoroughly with the Postulants as they sang and danced together celebrating the day. The Postulants conducted games for the children and all were given prizes. After the function refreshments were served to all by Mama's Club. It was indeed a Great Day for the Children of Asha Kiran.



**Our dear children
at Asha Kiran**

- ◆ They celebrate
- ◆ They study
- ◆ They help each other

care for our children who are greatly under distress due to their family and other behavior related situations. We have a few Convergence Staff rendering their free service to our children. Sister (Dr) Ajaya does medical examination and health checkup for our children. Sister Daya was teaching Art & craft and coaching class for those who are attending school. Mrs.Sweta Singh of Notre Dame Montessori conducts classes in music and Sister Anjali took Smart Class and

In the Home for Girls at Asha Kiran there are 10 staff members, among them 5 are residential staff. They are Superintendent, 2 House Mothers, 1 Cook and a Paramedical Staff. The others are 1 Counsellor, 1 Probation Officer (Welfare Officer), 1 Accountant, 1 Maintenance Staff, and 1 Kitchen Helper. Most of the staff members received training from State Child Protection Society which was a great help to

encouraged the children to get interested in learning.

We thank the Good God for each of you for your prayerful support. We raise our hearts to the Lord in prayer for His wonderful intervention in the lives of our Children at Asha Kiran – Home for Girls.

Sister Mary Alka

Christology Retreat Mirick, June, 2019



Ours was the last group to have the Christology Retreat. We were privileged to have our retreat at Don Bosco School, Mirik in the Darjeeling District, a place of scenic Himalayan beauty. The weather too was pleasant, very conducive for the retreat. Thanks to Sister Mary Ranitta and Sister M. Nish who arranged this place for us.

We were 32 Sisters in the group. Sister Mary Ruby was our retreat Director and Sister Ranitta attended to our material needs. We started the retreat on June 4th, 2019. The Don Bosco Fathers were available to celebrate the Holy Mass, for confessions and for our other needs. The Don Bosco hospitality was commendable. At the end of the Retreat,

Fr. Ashish SDB invited us to the School Assembly, introduced us to the teachers and students and presented each of us with a “Khadha”. Sister Mary Beena gave an inspiring message to the staff and the students. After the Retreat few of the Sisters took time to visit

our houses in Darjeeling, Sumbuck, Rimbick and Kainjalia. Couple of the Sisters ventured out to visit the houses in Assam.

We thank Sister Mary Tessy and the Provincial Council for providing this opportunity for us to make the retreat at Don Bosco, Mirick.

Inter-Province Formators' Meeting - July 28th -29th, 2019



The meeting began with a short prayer service. The theme of the Meeting was, “We are called to cultivate our vocation in a holistic approach.” The different topics of the Formation Conference in Rome were presented by Sisters Mary Shobha, Prasanna, Vijita and Namrata. The topics of their presentations were: Accompaniment, Ignatian Spirituality, World Realities and Notre Dame Culture.

All the Formators were ready with their reports of different levels of formation. We also looked through the Province Formation Manual. More ideas were inserted into the manual based on our Formation Conference in Rome.

We were blessed to have the presence of Sister Mary Kristin and Sister Mary Sreeja through Skype. Sister Mary Sreeja stayed with us on the Skype throughout the meeting and made valuable contribution. We are grateful to Sister Mary Tessy, and the provincial Council for arranging this meeting which has made us more aware of our responsibility to bring up our formees according to the present realities of the world. We concluded our meeting with words of appreciation for the support and encouragement the formators receive from both the provinces.

Srs. Mary Namrata and Sabeena



Rev.Fr. Devasia Chirayil

We offer “Shradhanjali”
to our devoted parish priest,
ever ready helper
and confessor
of the Provincial house

Happy independence Day!

**Showers of Blessings
For the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption!**