



# Disciples India

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## CALL AND MISSION



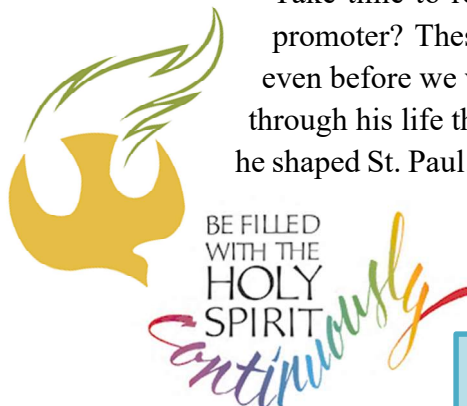
The Almighty God is completely involved in the life of the universe. God's involvement is not restricted only to significant incidents of our lives but rather it encompasses each and every moment of life, whether we realize it or not. The ordinary situations like, the laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls, and the cups of coffee etc. are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in all these situations. He is serving our family, our co-workers, and our community through the work we do. God is at work providing "our daily bread" through the work we do, no matter what that work is. In a way, everyone has their own specific vocation and mission in life and we carry out a concrete assignment that demands fulfilment. Therein one

cannot be replaced, nor can one's life be repeated; thus, everyone's task is unique as their specific opportunity to implement it.

St Paul, discovered his vocation and mission in God's plan. After the encounter with the Lord the one who was against Christ become for Christ until his death. If we are asked when did Paul received his call, we would undoubtedly say it's on the way to Damascus. Because there are three accounts of his vocation story recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The first in Acts 9:1-19 and retold by Paul in Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:12-18. If we read those texts clearly then we would understand that there are some contradictions in the writings. For example, in Acts 9: 1-19 we read that those who accompanied Paul heard the voice of Risen Lord but did not see the Light. But in Acts 22: 6-21 the co-workers of Paul had seen the light but didn't hear the voice. In this way among the three accounts, we find many contradictions if we read them carefully. These contradictions make us wonder whether the transformation of St Paul is real or imaginary. While most of us think that he got his vocation on the way to Damascus, St Paul himself would tell us in the letter to the Galatians that his Vocation is from his Mother's Womb: "But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and he was called through God's grace... (Gal 1:15). How deep are his thoughts in understanding of his vocation? The truth is that for all us our vocation story begins from our mother's womb.



Take time to reflect on: Is my religious life decided by me, my parents or my vocation promoter? These are instruments but the Lord in his eternal plan has already chosen us even before we were formed in our mother's womb. This is what St Paul is trying to tell us through his life that what we are now is God's eternal plan and He is shaping us each day as he shaped St. Paul. Let us remain open to God's Grace of moulding and shaping through every experience, persons and happenings as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Feast of our Father and Patron St Paul. **Sr M. Kumudini Toppo**



**God's Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly – Rom 5:5-6**

## EXPERIENCE OF THE DIVINE IN THE SOUND OF SILENCE



Coming back to the Novitiate brings back so much of memories of the past. It was a joy to be part of the Juniors retreat after this great phase of Covid 19.

Our retreat was preached by Fr Lawrence D'mello (OCD) who emphasized on Christification, the stages of Sanctification, and the role of a Prophet, the way of Mysticism adapted by the Carmelites, especially St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila. The days of silence were

spent meditating on the Word of God in a deep reflective session that helped each of us to know and understand its real essence. He also brought to light the ways through which God continues to move people who are consecrated to him in every era.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May we had a session by our Provincial Superior Sr M. Celine Cunha on the topic "Process of formation". It was true delight and inspiration to listen to her and learn how our formation leads us to God through our journey of experience, reflection, and action. She also lovingly and patiently answered all our queries that were indeed needed and beneficial. Our day continued with another session that was presented by our Mistress, Sr. Josephine on the -Theme "Knowing Oneself, One's Identity". Wide knowledge of how our childhood experience can affect our personality and the ways to get out of our negative behavior. And that the reality of community life makes us strong in our commitment if we are open to expressing our feelings. We also listened to each other's experience that was very deep, inspiring, joyful as well as challenging.

Our program was grouped with two days of presentations on theme "Communication in the realm of new media" by Sr M. Saly Muthuplackal. She elaborated to us on the various benefits of the social media platform and prudent ways of putting them to use for our personal and apostolic life.

We had a day of outing with our mistress to the countryside of Mysore that was relaxing and soothing, the greenery, the simplicity of people; our togetherness will always be a part of our memories.

We the juniors are overwhelmed with gratitude to Sr Celine Cunha our Provincial and her team especially Sr Josephine for their effort, love, and interest in each one of us and for this beautiful experience of being together, praying, sharing, and learning. We wait for more such days in years to come. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the community of 'Orsola Bhavan' specially the Novices for making our stay a comfortable one with their efforts and sacrifices. Thank you, Dear Sisters, from the bottom of our hearts.



**Sisters In Temporary Profession**

**"In calling you God says to you: 'You are important to me, I love you, I am counting on you'".  
This is the beauty of consecration: it is joy, joy.... There is no holiness in sadness - Pope Francis**

## International Formators' meet April-May 2022

The International Formators meet with the Theme “Here I am doing something new: it is sprouting right now. Don't you notice it?” Is 43, 19 which took place in the year 2021, and it was continued again in April-May 2022 in two steps, for three groups; for Pre-postulants/Postulants Formators, Formators of Novices, and Formators of Juniors.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> day ‘**spiritual conversation**’ - resulted from the given Scriptural texts for prayer and reflection with the methodology of three fundamental elements of spiritual conversation were: the profound sharing of one's inner movements; open and attentive **listening**, first round; second round **the echoes** that are, after listening deeply to the others in prayerful silence, the second round of spiritual sharing. In the third round - **communion**, the invitation is to respond adequately to what the Spirit awakens in the community. On the second day, the theme “*Journey towards Integration and Maturity*’ deepened through the video, “*The joy of celibacy. Affective Maturity*”.

It was enriching, leading to greater light in one's ongoing formation and to avail oneself with a deeper awareness of the mission as formators. Indeed, a space for entering into greater communion with a universal spirit to be persons consecrated and set apart, for a specific mission living joyfully our life of consecration in the challenging times; hence the importance to be given in the different stages of our formative journey.

Sr M. Romana Pulichumavil

### NEW MEDIA



It was a joyful moment to meet the junior sisters of our Indian Province together in the Novitiate House in Mysore for their annual retreat and get-together. We the Novices were privileged to join them for the seminar conducted by Sr. M. Saly

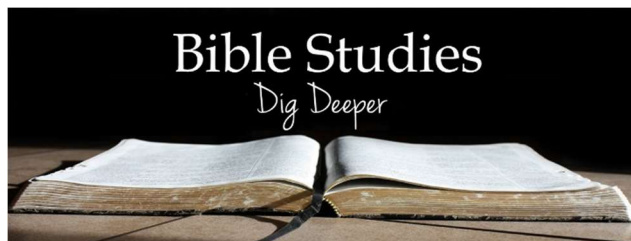
Muthuplackal. The topic was “Communication in the realm of new media”, which is so important for us young people. It was a very relevant topic to know and understand as we are confronted with the modern technologies. She drew home the facts using practical situations like – watching T. V, reading the newspaper, simple communications with outsiders etc. how our minds are formed and transformed. The input sessions were of great help for increasing our general knowledge. Some of the topics particularly on media, mass communication, social media and youth, cybercrimes and public speaking and body language were very new to us. She also dealt with Indian constitution, article no.19.1, freedom of speech and expression and made us aware that we have the right to speak out and stand for our rights according to the Indian constitution. Added to that she explained how to be careful in using the mobile phones, internet, email etc, while bringing clarity on IPC (Indian Penal Code) and cybercrimes. We have gained lot of new knowledge through this seminar and we are grateful to our Provincial Superior Sr M. Celine Cunha and our formators for creating this opportunity and especially lots of thanks to Sr. Saly for her availability.

Novice Sushita Kispotta

## Ponder the Word

Our hearts ring out with joy and gratitude for the opportunity that we had, to have a joint-classes with the novices from different congregations at M.K Halli, Mysuru, at DSFS (Daughters of Fransican De Sales) novitiate house.

The topic was the Synoptic Gospels and Pauline Letters. Seeing their welcoming and friendly gestures I was very enthusiastic to listen and learn the Word of God. My interior being was enlightened and inspired by listening and studying God's Word. It helped me to know the history of Jesus and his Disciples and to recollect back how God is working in me, through his presence, guidance and the experiences of him in my daily life.



Attending these classes, helped me to increase my knowledge, to exercise my mind, heart and will to ponder the Word, to gaze upon the face of Jesus and recognize his goodness, his humility and the suffering He went through to bring me eternal life. Our First Mother Scholastica Rivata expressed it from the depth of her heart 'Lord you are my everything' and 'you alone are enough'. Like our mother, when I reflect on God's Word, it resounds in my heart to rely on Him for everything and to grasp the divine splendor revealed in the Risen Lord.

Heartfelt gratitude to our Provincial Superior Celine Cunha and her team and to our formators for giving us this beautiful opportunity to learn more of the Holy Scripture.

**Novice Rosita Gangmei**

## SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE POOR, MYSORE



The devotion to Our Lady of The Poor in Mysore was started by late Rt. Rev. Dr. Rene Feuga, the first Bishop of Mysore, in the year 1955. It was in the context of Our Lady's apparition to Marietta Beco at Banneux in France in the year 1933. The late Bishop Feuga brought the Holy Water from Banneux and mixed it with the water in the existing pond which later became a well of Holy Water which the pilgrims have been using with great devotion.

Thus, the devotion to the Virgin of The Poor grew in Mysore giving birth to a Shrine which was built in 1960 in honor of Our Lady of The Poor. The Pilgrims have been coming from everywhere everyday especially in large numbers on Saturdays offering prayers, flowers, sarees and candles. The

devotees from all walks of life have been coming to the Shrine and have been receiving innumerable favours and miracles from Our Lady of the Poor. Numerous people who had been and have been suffering from various physical ailment, diseases and depression have been healed miraculously. Other devotees, who have been facing various problems, have received favours and their prayers are heard.

The Shrine of the Virgin of the Poor was renovated and extended by the Parish Priests over the years. It was blessed and inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Vazhapilly, Bishop Emeritus of Mysore on 28 May, 2021 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Shrine.

We are privileged to have our Liturgical Centre in the premises of the Our Lady of the Poor. The devotees who visit our center keep asking our prayers and blessings. They also seek our listening ears to listen to their problems. This year the feast of Our Lady of the Poor was celebrated on 29 May. We place our province under her maternal care and ask for her blessings over each one of us. AVE MARIA

**Community of Prashantha Nilaya, Mysore.**

## **THE HEART STILL BEATS...PULSATES...**



From our early childhood, all of us are very familiar with looking at the Sacred Heart picture which has a prominent place in all Christian homes. As children, we are introduced to this devotion of Sacred Heart, the first Friday's significance, and the nine consecutive first Fridays as well. It is a special day to consecrate one's life anew to His love and mercy. The very gaze at the picture, one feels certainly good, embraced, loved and cared for as if the Lord is inviting to step into His joy and peace.

Usually, in June – we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and draw near to His tender mercy and forgiveness. The heart is a symbol of the human centre – our emotions, love, passions, desires, and the force of the will. David Richo explains: “our heart is the soft centre of the egoless self and it has one desire: to open. The heart has the capacity to open... it contains our ability to reach out so it is the antidote to despair...contemplation of Jesus' Heart shows us how deep we really are, how vast our potential for love, how high our aspiration for the light.”

In the Gospels, Jesus' heart is moved with pity for the crowds (see Mt 9:36) and He tells us that He is gentle and humble of heart (Mt 11:29). The Sacred Heart of Jesus that began beating in the womb of the Blessed Virgin more than 2,000 years ago still beats for us today in the glorified humanity of the Risen Christ. And it will pulsate forever, pumping out the grace, mercy, and life of God to all of humanity. In the Heart of the Lord, we experience the overwhelming mercy of Father and His infinite desire to be in a relationship with us.

Jesus revealed to St Margaret Mary Alacoque His heart, burning with love for humanity. The Lord beckons us to enter into the divine love and joy. Living our religious consecration which is an extension of our baptismal commitment – we the disciples put on Christ- anointed with the Holy Spirit to live as a new creation in the life of the Trinity – to embrace the Goodnews of the Gospel. As we steadily progress in our knowledge and communion with the Lord, we will fall ever more deeply in love with Jesus the Master and live out that transforming and redemptive relationship in every detail of our lives. This communion unites our minds, hearts, and wills in one great act of oblation — a total gift of the self to the One who has first offered himself completely to and for us.

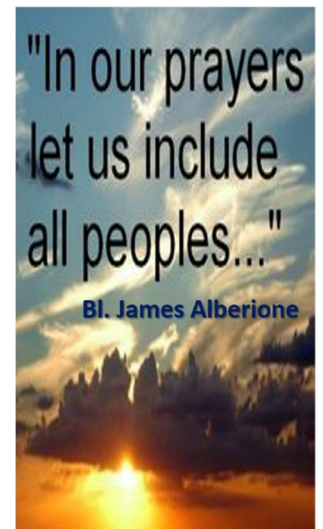
**Sr M. Romana pddm**

## **POWER OF INTERCESSION**



On Friday evening my Mum who is almost 94 years had 100.2 temperature, and her head was thrown back, eyes reddish and mostly closed and watery, mouth gaping open and legs dangling - just not able to stand! Despite giving a crocin early evening, her temperature just did not come down even after 2½ hours. Had immediately given a petition to the Prarthanalaya Nuns just as they started their evening prayer (as it looked like Mum had entered a different zone which could go on for days!!) It was indeed miraculous that by night Mum was a lot better and the maid took her to the toilet alone, whereas at 5.30 pm both of us struggled to lift her in and out of the bathroom. In fact, last week itself she started tending to slump to the left side. Truly Praise God for the dramatic change that night itself. Was also concerned about the pain that was aggravated in the maid's side due to the evening's struggle. Thx to God, on Saturday both Mum and the maid were back to normal!

**- Testimony of Mrs. Louella from St. Andrew's Church**



## THE LONG-AWAITED HOLIDAYS!!!



The Corona Virus Pandemic had turned hay-wire the plans of many people. I too felt the same when I went home for holiday after four years. The joy of my family was doubled finally when they welcomed me in their midst. On both sides, there were tears of joy and happiness because so many people have lost their loved ones during the pandemic. Their expression of love at the airport and as well when I reached home was beyond my imagination. I thank God for giving me this opportunity to spend these few days with my family members.

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT BANGALORE...

I am grateful to Sr. Celine the Provincial Superior, for her kind gesture in inviting me to Bangalore. I am also deeply touched by the warm welcome extended to me upon my arrival in Bangalore and the arrangements made to visit the nearby communities. She took care of even the minute details of my stay over there and sent Sr M. Regina Sebastian the guardian angel to accompany me everywhere. I thoroughly enjoyed my short stay at Guru Yesu Bhavan, Clergy Home, and Bannerghatta. I am grateful to dear sisters Sr Shyla, Sr Annie Joseph, and Sr Sahaya for your hospitality and the lovely Indian food which energized my taste buds once again.

These “Acts OF LOVE “will always remain in my heart.

Thank you, Sr. Celine, for inspiring me, with words and kind gestures which made my trip to Bangalore a Memorable one.

### MUSINGS AT MUMBAI...

Sr. Gracy too invited me to be with the community for a meal. I was really happy to see some of our elderly sisters with whom I had lived. In spite of their busy schedules, the sisters gave their precious time to be with me.

My sincere thanks to Sr. Veronica and the community with whom I had a good time sharing the old memories and jokes with a hearty laugh.

I cherish the memories of all those I met and the few sisters with whom I had phone contact. I appreciate each and every one of you for the love and care you have shown to me. With the Psalmist I say “How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me”?

Once again, my sincere thanks to Sr. Celine the Provincial superior for sketching the way for me. Sometimes we have the tendency to choose to walk the other path. I thank the Lord for inspiring me to walk the path traced for me which made me realize that in obedience we find a hundredfold and that is what I received from the Indian Province during this home visit.

THANK YOU, Sr. Celine and Councilors, Superiors, and Sisters, for your WARM WELCOME. I assure you my prayers whenever I participate in Pope’s Mass and during my visit to the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter’s Basilica. Do keep me in your prayers.

**Sr M. Rita Collaco**



**Thank you, dear sisters from Mysore Novitiate and Prashantha Nilaya for your contribution to the June issue of Disciples India. For July issue the communities of Bangalore Clergy Home and Bannerghatta are invited to contribute. The others are most welcome. ALL THE BEST!**