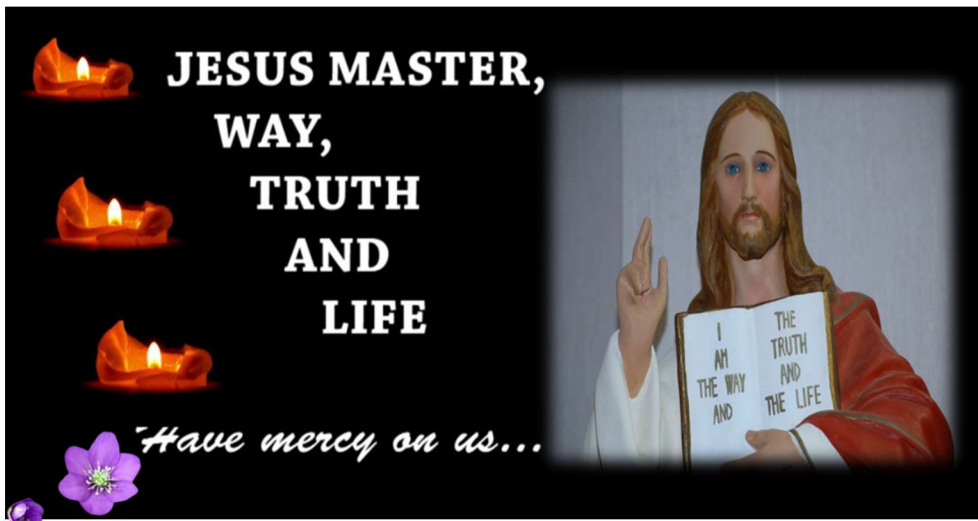


Disciples India



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01/10/2022



The month of October leads every Sister Disciple in a deeper relationship with Mary the first and the perfect Disciple and her Divine Son. Through the contemplation of the Rosary, she is led by Mary to Jesus. As the saying goes 'You become what you contemplate' she imbibes the qualities of Mary and Jesus her Divine Master.

Pope Francis gives all people he meets a Rosary. "Our Lady, he says, is always close to Her

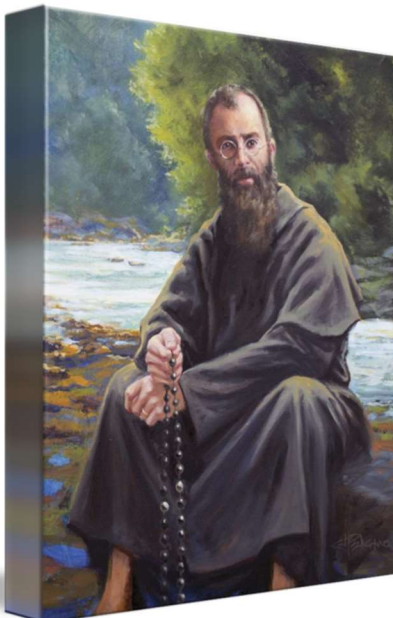
children and ready to help when we pray to her and when we ask for her protection. Let us remember she is always ready to serve and never keeps anyone waiting".

In one of the weekly General Audience, he explained that the Rosary is "a synthesis of Divine Mercy". And greeting the young, the sick and the newly wedded, Pope Francis said: "May this simple Marian prayer show you, young people, the way to give life to God's will in your lives; dear sick people, love this prayer because it brings consolation for the mind and the heart; and dear newly wedded spouses, may it represent a privileged moment of spiritual intimacy within your new family".

May this powerful prayer transform our mind, heart and will to make us worthy disciples of Jesus, our Divine Master.



The Disciples India wishes everyone a very Happy Feast of Jesus our Divine Master!



**"Give me an army saying the Rosary
and I will conquer the World'**

- Pope Pius IX

- Saint Maximilian Kolbe Praying the Rosary

**Dear sisters from Clergy Home – Mumbai & Goa,
thank you very much for your contribution to this issue of
Disciples India. For the next issue the community of
Nellore is invited to contribute.
The others are always welcome.**

JESUS MY GREATEST TREASURE

Nothing of value comes free.
What we value the most is
What has cost us the most.
What we value the most is
What we have paid for the most.
What we have paid for the most is
What we value the most.
To what I give more value to
determine my own value.
Take care of what you value more.



“TO FOLLOW CHRIST IS TO UNFOLLOW THE CROWD”

St. Paul to the Philippians 3:8 – Fill your minds

With those things that are good and that deserve praise:

Things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honorable”

“ALL THAT IS POPULAR NEED NOT BE RIGHT,
AND ALL THAT IS RIGHT NEED NOT BE POPULAR.”

Sr M Priscilla Fernandes

Visitation of our Blessed Mother to our families



The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. In the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, there is a custom to take the statue of our Blessed Mother to every house in every parish. In our parish, Mae de Deus Church - Saligao, Mary's visit began on 15th August. This visit reminds us of the words from Luke 1: 39 “Mary went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth”. As Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit, her presence made Elizabeth's babe leap in her womb, and Elizabeth too was filled with the Holy Spirit and in a loud voice, she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”

In a similar manner, families are overjoyed to receive mother Mary in their houses. There are internal and external preparations in every family. Spiritually, everyone prepares themselves by making their confessions and attending daily Mass in those days. Externally, they clean the houses and decorate the altar beautifully. They welcome Mary with a garland followed by a welcome prayer and praying the rosary for various intentions. At the end of the rosary, as gratitude, they serve boiled grams and snacks. On the following evening, everyone gathers in the same house and has a special departure prayer. The head of the family hands over the statue to the next family. Once again, in procession singing hymns to our Blessed Mother they move to the next house.

The visit of our Blessed Mother brings lots of blessings, peace, joy, unity, and harmony to the families as well as in the neighborhood. As Mary is the mother of all, she knows the needs of everyone just as she reached out to Elizabeth.

“A family that prays together stays together.”

Sisters from Goa

FRANKLY SPEAKING

The month of October is Missionary Month which will include the celebration of the 96th World Mission Day on Sunday, October 23. The month begins with the liturgical memorial of Saint Teresa of Lisieux, proclaimed, by Pope Pius XI. She is a Patroness of the missions like Saint Francis Xavier. I am happy to share about some of my Mission experiences in North East of India.

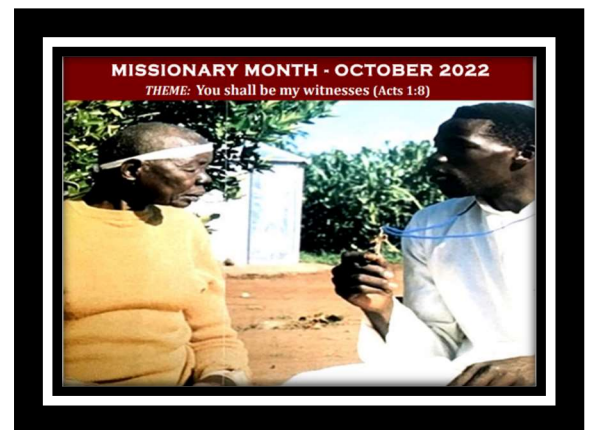


To start with, I must go back to my school days. I was fortunate to study in a Catholic school run by religious sisters and I remember there was lot of encouragement about going to the mission land where people have not heard of Jesus. The senior girls who had already gone to missions like Assam, would keep writing letters talking about the situations like how there is lack of educational facilities, about the life to be improved, the missionaries have to walk for miles from village to village to teach them about Jesus, and the great need of priests and sisters to spread God's kingdom. With such information, I too had great desire and zeal to go to the missions.

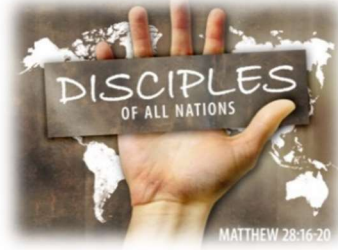
Readiness to leave one's own family to go to an unknown place for Christ's sake, learning a new language, adapting to new culture are the signs of God's call to be a missionary. I decided to leave my native place and go to the mission places like Assam, Arunachal, or Meghalaya. But Jesus brought me not to those places but to the metropolitan city of Bombay where there were a lot of devout Catholics. This made me realize that my call to be a missionary is not for going to the villages to evangelize but to kneel before the Eucharistic Lord to intercede for humanity like Moses on the mountain, like Mary at Cana in the Cenacle. This realization made me bloom where I was planted. And when I was ready for transplanting, Jesus Master placed me in different parts of the country, and in 1986, I was sent to my dream mission land Kohima - Nagaland.

Kohima was a place where late Bishop Abraham Alangimattathil wanted the presence of PDDM as the powerhouse of the diocese. At present, the place where Mt. Tabor Retreat house is situated was once a picnic spot of the Nagas. In those days, on weekends a common picnic or entertainment was a compulsory feature in their tribal culture. This same spot was used by the bishop to build the Mt. Tabor Retreat house for spiritual renewal and refreshment for the people of the diocese. During one of his visits the Bishop told us that "For you sisters, at times Adoration might become a routine, but for those who come here it is a rare experience, so you must make an extra effort to be welcoming and hospitable to those who come here to make them feel at home". Certainly, it was a challenging ministry.

In those days, around Mt. Tabor, there were no houses in the neighborhood except a Nepali family staying on the way to the main road. The hijacking was common and we had heard about incidents where the hijackers would kill the drivers, change the number plate of the vehicle and dismantle certain parts which they are in need, etc... Once, our new Vehicle was hijacked with the driver, and the community prayed earnestly to Mary our Mother to save the driver and the driver had a miraculous escape and we got back the vehicle without any damage except for a punctured tire. Certainly, those days were days of faith and miracles.



In 1989, I said goodbye to North East far from thinking that once again I would be back there. In 2016, I was transferred to Guwahati the capital of Assam, the gateway to North East. After a year, I was moved to Tura, Meghalaya. God's ways are amazing and I feel happy to have stayed there for five years. When we accept willingly God's will, he works wonders in our lives.



The Bishop of Tura had invited us because of our specific Eucharistic ministry. He wanted us to foster the piety of the faithful and help them to grow in faith. I was happy to see people regularly visiting our Chapel to pay homage to the Divine Master present in the Blessed Sacrament. With great trust in our intercessory prayer,

those who visit the chapel would write their intentions and place them before the altar even if they have no time to sit and pray. Tura is a place where we have ample opportunities to get involved in the pastoral ministry. This year during the Easter season, the blessing of the houses was done by two of our sisters in our zone. Though it was very tedious to climb the hills and valleys, the sisters were very enthusiastic about the ministry.

I am now 74, yet going strong as a Missionary in Guwahati – Assam, the gateway to North East a land of paradise with different languages, cultures, tribes, and scenic beauty. I thank the Lord for this Missionary experience.

Sr M. Elizabeth Palakatt

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT

Novena to our lady of Mount began on 2nd, September and was concluded on 10th, September. On 11th, September the birthday of our Blessed Mother was celebrated in great pomp. After two years of pandemic restrictions, this year we had an opportunity of celebrating the birthday of our Blessed Mother.

300 years old Bandra fair is a week-long fair held annually in Bandra, Mumbai. The fair draws lacks of devotees and pilgrims and tens of thousands visits the shrine of our Lady of Mount. The shrine attracts people of all faiths who come to pray Mary requesting favors or making their thanksgiving. Many put up stalls selling religious objects and an assortment of candles shaped like hands, feet and various other parts of the body. The people who are ill choose one that correspond to their ailment and offer it in the Basilica at the feet of Mother Mary. It was a matter of great joy to be part of such great fair after a long awaited two years.



Every year the people from Uttan, a fishing community known for their religiosity offer their first catch of fish mostly to the Clergy Home. For me who is from North East it was a moment of wonder and festivity to see the variety of fishes. I was lucky to have been part of this community to witness these acts of faith and generosity. The community spent some moments of prayer before the

Blessed Sacrament with the benefactors praying for their wellbeing and intentions. I am deeply touched and inspired by their simplicity and kindness. God bless them all.

Sr M Athene Dai