



## Mother! She is above all

Mother gives birth to all living beings. She is the one who gives warmth to her children and bears everything for the sake of her children. Her arms are the ones that protect and care. She is most sincere and patient and her love is invaluable and precious. It cannot be compared with anything else in this world. She is the one who gives and does not take back. Her sacrifice...it's so great! It's Unexplainable.

The month of September invites us to celebrate the life and existence of two mothers namely Mother Earth and Mother Mary. On May 24, 2015, Pope Francis, had invited everyone to care for mother earth, our common home, through his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si. Accordingly, the Catholic world celebrates September 1<sup>st</sup> as the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation'.

The Pope continues to surprise us with his understanding of mother earth by giving "newness" to his teachings. Furthering his reflection on this topic he declared that the care for creation is a new form of works of mercy. The traditional sets of the seven Corporal works of mercy are; Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Shelter the travellers, Visit the sick, Visit the imprisoned, and Bury the dead. The seven Spiritual works of mercy are; Counsel the doubtful, Instruct the ignorant, Admonish the sinner, Comfort the sorrowful, Forgive all injuries, Bear wrongs patiently, and Pray for the living and the dead. Caring for creation, then, marks a new opportunity to extend our works of mercy. The work of mercy requires simple daily gestures to move from self-centeredness to other-centeredness. To Care for the earth is not a slogan, it requires our faith commitment.



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, we celebrate the birthday of our blessed mother. Mary through her "Yes" not only brought God into this world but made him our brother. As a mother she made the Church and the world more fraternal, the Pope said. According to the Pope, a world without mothers, has no future. The Church needs to rediscover her maternal heart, which beats for unity; but she also needs our Earth, to become again a peaceful home for all her children. Citing his latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, he said, Our Lady "wants to give birth to a new world, where all of us are sisters and brothers, where there is room for all those whom society discards" (no. 278).

We need motherhood, those who generate and regenerate life with tenderness, caring, and sharing.

What we have received from our mothers namely, Mother Earth and Mother Mary cannot be repaid in any way. The minimum that we can do is to show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation and our gratitude to Mary our Mother by celebrating her birthday with due spiritual preparation and putting into practice the values lived by her.

- Sr M. Regina Sebastian

## The Beauty of Mary's Soul

As we are in the month of September a month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, I would like to share my personal reflection of Mary our Mother and Queen.

St. Ann and Joachim were privileged to have Mary as their daughter. Mary grew up like any other child except for sin. She helped her parents in doing up the daily chores and was obedient, and faithful in reading and reflecting the Word of God (Old Testament). Because of her profound union with God while she was still young consecrated herself to God. The beauty of Mary's soul is that it was always united with God. Therefore, she was able to discern her call to become the Mother of God.

Every occasion is an opportunity to discern the will of God. Mary is a model for us in living our call to be a woman and a religious. The presence of every religious in this world is a call to be a messenger of good tidings and an ambassador of peace. We are not here by chance but by the will of God. Mary accepted her as God had planned it and glorified God through her life. We as consecrated persons are called to glorify God through our life and mission in turn God will glorify us. "Those whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Rom: 8:30)



Mary was Self-Sacrificial in not having any personal dreams except that of fulfilling God's dream of bringing Jesus to the world. By doing so she paved the way for us to fulfil all her dreams.

Mary was Hopeful in every situation of her life. When she was found to be with a child, she could have been stoned to death. What a great risk Mary had put herself in, but she knew the Lord whom she trusted will not put her to shame. Therefore, let us look at every problem we are faced with from God's perspective, with deep trust and hope in him.

Mary knew how to face pain and rejection. None of us like to go through painful situations much less rejections in life. Mary's heart was pierced with a sword when she had to face the anxious look of Joseph at her pregnancy, at the presentation in the temple when she heard the prophecy of Simeon when she lost her son Jesus in the temple, when people call her son mad and out of his mind, finally when she saw him on the cross rejected by everyone like a criminal hanging on the cross outside the city gates. Yet, her courage and resilience

to face problems and situations kept her calm. We too experience painful conditions in our daily life, Mary becomes our model to overcome every fear and rejection.

Let us through her intercession pray for our broken world especially our brothers and sisters in Manipur who are in situations of fear and hopelessness, that she may intercede to her son Jesus to end this situation of pain and suffering and shower his blessings upon those who have caused this pain and misery, so that their hearts may be transformed.

- Sr M. Monita Munis



## GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

“Rocks are God’s thoughts in store, dew drops are God’s thoughts in pearl and every beginning is God’s wonderful thought of creation.” I believe it in my life and in my God-given vocation.



In 1969, when I left my natural family without knowing what was in store for me. I set out with a passion for a mission and to be part of a religious family. When I reached Mumbai, I met my companions and became part of the group not knowing the language and culture. But life went on joyfully. After a few years, we had to leave Mumbai to go to Bangalore for our novitiate together with Mother Dorothy. The new beginning in Bangalore was a tough time, but God did not leave us alone. His providence was in abundance. We were the first batch of Novices in Bangalore with a few senior sisters. They were very kind and understanding towards us. After a year we made our profession and I was the first one to leave for a mission in Dasarahalli, Bangalore. The senior sisters gave me a warm welcome and I felt deeply happy and touched by their gesture. Their life of prayer, sacrifices, and hard work inspired me greatly. Their total commitment to the

mission motivated and encouraged me. I tried my best to imitate their good examples. I am very grateful to my senior sisters.

Whenever I received the transfer news, I used to feel tensed but I told Jesus, “Please help me to fulfill my mission like Mary our Mother.” In all my ministries I felt Jesus always at my side. In each and every community I had different experiences and I believed that everything happened for my good. Jesus, the Master Captain knew how to guide and navigate my journey, in every circumstance. He showed me the light when I was in dark shadows, held my hand when I stumbled, and protected me under the shadow of his wings when I was in danger. Mother Mary was my earthly and heavenly mother, she was also my guiding star.

In these 50 years of my religious life, I came across different Provincials, Superiors, and many sisters who have supported me in one or the other way. I owe my special thanks to Sr. M. Dorothy who encouraged me to be faithful to my vocation as a true disciple following the footsteps of our Founder and to be a committed person like Mother Scholastica, by doing everything for the glory of God. With gratitude, I remember all and thank them. There is so much to celebrate and to give thanks to God who has been so generous to me in every way and in everything. For this, I need to utter a prayer of thanks at every moment.



On August 14, 2023, the Santhome community, inviting the Parish clergy, the Paulines, my family members, and friends arranged a very meaningful and memorable Golden Jubilee Celebration for me at the Crypt Chapel of St. Thomas the Apostle. There were 9 priests for the concelebration after which a felicitation program was also organized. It was really a moment of blessing from God Almighty and I am grateful to my community for their kind gesture I ask God the grace to continue my mission faithfully and cheerfully in his vineyard by doing His will.

I thank God for the love and generosity of my parents who offered me to God’s service. Though they are in heaven, I can still feel their presence and prayers for me, my brother, sisters, and all my dear ones. All glory to God.

**Sr M. Assumption Pallath**

**50 HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN SANTHOME CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY OF OUR FOUNDATION AND  
GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PDDM PRESENCE IN THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MADRAS-MYLAPORE, SANTHOME, CHENNAI**

Our Founder Bl. Fr. James Alberione stated to the Pious Disciples, “You were born of the Eucharist, your food is the Eucharist.” The Congregation of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master has sprung forth from the Eucharist and sustains because of the Eucharist.



In gratitude to God for His five Decades of faithful love and protection in the land of Madras-Mylapore, at Santhome Cathedral Basilica, the community of Guru Yesu Illam had organized fifty Hours of perpetual adoration.

As for me, it was a remarkable experience to see so much enthusiasm and eagerness in our community sisters to arrange this adoration along with the help of the Parish Priest Fr. M. Arulraj and Parish Clergy who made possible arrangements by announcing it to the faithful and by finding out the groups to take part in the adoration. It was also an unforgettable experience to decorate the altar for our Eucharistic Lord along with the community sisters with joy, creativity, and unity. It was indeed a splendid beauty of our Eucharistic Lord which elevated the altar filled with colorful flowers which seemed to me as if rejoicing at the presence of their creator and praising and adoring Him by being at His side.

The adoration began on August 4, the feast of St. John Mary Vianney. It was indeed a memorable event for all of us as we encountered the waves of blessings dashing at the doors of our hearts and reaching to every corner of the world through the intercessions and prayers offered by Anbiam groups, Parish fathers, religious sisters, and local faithful through songs of praise and worship. It was an awe-inspiring moment to see the faithful and the community sisters praying interminably for two nights and days tirelessly. As I recall the phrase flashes to my memory from *Ephesians 6:18*—“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” This extraordinary event brought everyone together under one roof where all could be with their Maker without having any boundary of time.

The Solemn Eucharist Adoration was concluded with Benediction at 8.30 am, on August 6, the solemnity of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Though Jesus was carried back to the Tabernacle, the openings of new horizons of blessings and love that He has imprinted in the hearts of His faithful will remain forever.

We thank Our Founder Bl. Fr. James Alberione, for choosing Pious Disciples to carry out this beautiful apostolate of Eucharistic adoration. As said by him may every Pious Disciple may become a living tabernacle, carrying Jesus to the world.



**Sr M. Rowena Patil**

# **Congratulations!**



**Dear Sr M. Rosita Gangmei, and Sr M. Sushita Kispotta**  
**We Warmly Welcome you into our PDDM family.**

**God Bless you!**

**May Mary Queen of the Apostles and**  
**St Paul the Apostles guide you**  
**In this journey of Discipleship**



**Dear Sr Kanikai Mary Issac**  
**We invoke God's Blessings on you**  
**For your ministry in the Congregation.**

**We wish you all the Best**  
**and safe Journey**

**We the Indian Sisters are**  
**Proud of you.**

# Know our Novices

**Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless his holy name! (Ps. 103: 1)**

I am Veronica Winfred from Bangalore, Karnataka. I am glad indeed to be a novice in the congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for the gift of my vocation to the religious life especially in the congregation of the Sister Disciples.

Experiencing the love of my Lord and Master I journey under the gaze of Mary in the garden of PDDM novitiate. I earnestly desire to live this most important stage of my life discovering his love in all situations of life's journey. As his chosen instrument, I want to be an active and living member of the Church by giving Jesus to the world through my specific call and mission.



**O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Ps. 107,1)**

I am Priyanka Dhanwar from Jharkhand and am happy to be a novice in the congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. The Lord who called me, leads me to the green pastures, as I walk along the footsteps of my Master in the PDDM novitiate. I rejoice in these gracious and blissful years of my religious life which is his precious gift to me. I lovingly follow my Lord so as to be more like unto Him 'until Christ is formed in me'. (Gal: 2:22)