



Dominicana

THE INDIAN DOMINICAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER
APRIL, 2021





All that we can offer you is thanks....



“Marie Poussepin a woman inspired by Providence leaves Dourdan, a small prosperous town where she was born, to go and live in the humble village of Sainville”. Down the last 325 years following the example of Marie Poussepin, responding to the inspiration of Providence, thousands of women left their home-town and home land in order to bring to the world the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Mysteries. With audacity, without frontiers, Presentation is planted, taken root and spread out in 36 countries and many cultures, among different races and religions.

325th anniversary of the Congregation reminds us of God's fidelity... and the faithfulness of all those who travelled generations after generations, on the path of Charity trodden by Blessed Marie Poussepin, announcing Jesus Christ. We are united with the whole congregation in this journey of celebration in remembrance, commitment and renewal as beckoned by our Superior General, dear Sr. Maria Escayola Coris



Welcome to India

A land of ancient culture...., the cradle of great religions...., the home of a nation that has sought God with relentless desire in deep meditation and silence...., in hymns of fervent devotion...., a land of Rishis and Gurus and Vedas.... A land of diverse languages and traditions...

Let me share with you a little history. Dominican sisters of the Presentation responding to the invitation put their first step in Indian soil in 1971. They journeyed from one single community to a Region under the leadership of Sr. Mary Patricia Sullivan. The Region of India had one community and 13 sisters when it was established on 26th of July, 1975. The Province decided to shift the Regional headquarters to Bangalore in 1978. Sr. Patricia was elected Provincial in 1979 and Sr. Dorothy was elected Provincial in 1984. With great trust and confidence Sr. Ines Mercedes then Superior General entrusted the Presentation in India in the hands of the Indian sisters.



Following the examples of Sr. Patricia and Sr. Dorothy who walked before them, they ventured ahead to build Presentation on the foundation that they had built, with their sweat and blood, and with the selfless gift of themselves, they guided the sisters from far ahead. The Indian sisters responded with generosity and dedication.





Sr Joanna Fernandes was elected Provincial of USA in 1989. She is a gem of a person with full of life. She is a person who is touched by the abundance of life, loves unpossessively, spontaneously and joyfully. With her life she proclaimed that “I have come to give life and give it abundantly”. She is full of hope and mercy. The little time you be with her, she will pour out life, hope, mercy and comfort a person needs. She encouraged every one. She was firm but gentle. Every Indian sister in the province has a place in her heart and she accompanied genuinely. She loved India. Even the first time she came to India, she wore our saree and she continued to wear it each time she stepped into our Mother Land.

Sr. Rose Mary Kadampattuparambil Regional Superior from 1984-1990. She has given her best to fulfil her mission as Regional Superior. She did her share to make Presentation rooted in the Indian soil. We appreciate her authentic way of living and also make us strive to be authentic in our committed life. Indeed she is an inspiration for each one of us with her very life to follow Jesus and follow the Charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin in its fullness. Her life of SIMPLICITY, WORK AND POVERTY, which are the family traits of our congregation is very much outstanding in her everyday life. We thank and salute her for HER BEING with all the young energy, zeal and enthusiasm for all of us to follow. She have a special concern and love for each sister in the province. We are taken up by her generosity and goodwill. May the good Lord walk with her and keep her in good health and happiness always.



Sr. Reetha Mechery Regional Superior from 1990 -1995
Sr. Reetha was a gift to each one in the province, for the Province and for the Congregation as a whole. God blessed her with the gift of animation. She was a true disciple of the Master and faithful to the Charism of Marie Poussepin in the reality of India. We thank God for the wisdom and courage in giving herself without any reserve in any situation, her understanding towards each one, her simplicity, firm but gentle approaches, her unquenchable thirst for justice, a special sensitivity towards the suffering humanity especially the women. Sr. Reetha, with a sense of detachment and desiring the maturity of each one of her sisters, does not interfere unless she is asked. She expects each one to be responsible with freedom, she wants each one to make decision for themselves and expects each one to ask for help in times of need and in their search for truth and meaning in their life. Sr. Reetha showed us often our commitment and challenges we have to face in our daily life and led us to an experience of the Lord and we are able to recall the moments in which our hearts are being warmed up.

The journey continued another twenty years. After 20 years, the Region has been raised to a new Structure with constant support and accompaniment of the congregation and more especially that of the Province of USA. When the time came Sr. Fabiola Velaques



Maya, the Superior General and the council saw it fit to gift the sisters in India with the freedom by allowing them to grow to a Vice province and to become themselves with their gifts and talents as well as their limitations and poverty with the grace which accompanied them. The Vice Province of India has 59 sisters serving in 8 communities in 4 States of India. The animation of the Vice Province was entrusted into the capable hands of Sr. Vimala Vadakkumpadan and her team of Councillors. In 1998 Sr. Vimala Vadakkumpadan was re-entrusted with new team of Councillors. We had 11 communities in 9 dioceses in 6 different states of India. Sr Vimala, a woman of prayer brought down immense graces upon the province. Just like power plug she drew the energy of love from the Divine and transmitted it to all around her and brought a lot of life around her. She was hardworking, courageous, and talented. Being cheerful, friendly and sociable she made everyone feel at home in her company. She have a special concern and love for each sister in the province. She was generous in sharing her time and talents with anyone in need especially her valuable service in the province.



Sr. Mariamma Paul Ollukaran was entrusted with the animation of the Vice-Province in 2004. The passion and commitment with which she lived her life, the determination and courage with which she led our sisters, her personal care and concern for each one of the sisters, the creativity and the love for God and His people was really inspiring and challenging for all of us. The journey continued for another 13 years after it became a Vice Province in 1996. Korean Mission which was part of USA was added to the Province of India in 2007. Sr. Mariamma Paul Ollukaran was appointed as the first Provincial of the Province of India in 2009. The Province grew to 18 communities in 14 dioceses in 8 States of India and Korea. Sr. Mariamma is a wonderful woman and an instrument in the hands of God. She offered her services at different levels of formation, administration and Education. As the animator of the Province Sr. Mariamma's dedication and selfless service is an inspiration for all of us. With courage she led the Province. Each one experienced her love and care personally. We thank the Lord for the person of Sr. Mariamma. May His spirit continue to bless her with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as she is in the General team of animation of the congregation.



Sr. Philomina Vengachottil was elected Provincial in 2014. She led the Province of India for 5 years with much dedication and commitment. She led the province in the right path with truth and justice. She was a dedicated, committed and responsible person with a sincere,



humble and human heart. She was very sensitive to the needs of the sisters and of the province. A prayerful person, who deals with humanness. Your quietness and calmness added to your listening and caring nature which help all to approach you freely. She had a listening heart and a good animator who trust in God and give priority for God and His plans. May God bless you and keep you in His loving hands.



Sr. Ines Mercedes Mejia Toral
1979-1994



Sr. Maria Fabiola Velasques Maya
1994-2004



Mere Marie Saint Therese
1971-1979



Blessed Marie Poussepin



Sr. Monique Colrat
2004-2014



Mere Therese Des Anges
1959-1971



Sr. Maria Escayola Coris
2014-

Superior Genrals
who guided us

Superior Genrals who took much care
for the growth of the little plant sown in
the rich soil of India

Provincials and Vice-Provincials

Sr. Vimala vadakkumpadan
Vice-Provincial India
1996-2004



Sr. Joanna Fernandes
Provincial USA
1989-2004



Sr. Mariamma Paul Ollukkaran
Vice Provincial &
Provincial India
2004-2014



Sr. Dorothy Ruggiero
Provincial USA
1984-1989



Sr. Philomina Vengachottil
Provincial India
2014- 2019



Sr. Mary Patricia Sullivan
Provincial USA
1979-1984



Sr. Deepa Moonjely
Provincial India
2019-



Sr. Marie Ascension
Provincial USA
1971-1979



Provincials and Vice Provincials who
gave enough water and care for the
growth of the little plant sown in the
prosperous soil of India

Dominican Sisters of Presentation Province of India



One Community in Korea





Jeevadhara Community



Kerala, a small coastal state with green and lush vegetation, a land of coconuts and paddy fields, rivers and back waters, a land of festivals and rich cultural heritage welcomed our first sisters in 1971. Kuttikad, a Forane Parish which lies below the hilly and forest boundary of Trissur district belongs to the diocese of Irinjalakuda. It is 25 kilometers away from the Diocesan headquarters.



The Foundation Stone for Jeevadhara Hospital and the Convent was laid on 19th March, 1971. With the arrival of Sr. Jos Mary Mookan on June 9, 1971 in Kuttikad, the first Indian Sister to return India after her formation and the arrival of Sr. John of the Cross (Sr. Dorothy Ruggiero) on August 27, 1971 they moved to Doctors' quarters as a community. It helped them to supervise the construction. September 17, 1972: The blessing and inauguration of the new building for the Convent, Chapel and Health Centre by Bishop Joseph Kundukulam of Trichur Archdiocese.

The Indian sisters continued to come back once they finished their formation and professional studies and the community started to grow. As we scroll down through these pages of our history, our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Almighty God ... We

thank you, God of all mercies ... God of the history... God of the covenant... for your fidelity and love... and the faithfulness and commitment of all who have played an active role to make this history through their loyalty, dedication, and hard work. This wonderful occasion of the 50th Anniversary is a special time of thanksgiving for all those who have contributed to the life and success of our foundation from the very beginning and especially throughout these 50 years of its history.



*Jeevadhara - the First convent in India
for the Dominican sisters of the Presentation*

1971



Jeevadhara.....
stream of life, which
began to flow in 1971
continues its journey
with ever more enthusi-
asm to its destiny. Even
though the care of the
sick was the original
project of Jeevadha-
ra, over the years it has
evolved. The charism of
Marie Poussepin is kept
alive with the same spirit

and channeled through various ministries.

Following the example of Blessed Marie Poussepin who dedicated herself to educate the poor girls of her time, Jeevadhara opened its doors for young girls who due to financial or other reasons are unable to continue their education. They find a home away from home in Jeevadhara. They continue their study in St. Sebastian's Higher Secondary School Kuttikad, St. George's L.P. School, Pariyaram and St. George's U.P. School Thoombakode.

Reading the signs of the time and recognizing the call of the Church, Jeevadhara Community collaborated with the diocese and other congregations in rendering the services to the poor through AVARD (Apex Voluntary Agency for Rural Development), to the sick through St. James Hospital, Chalakudy, Education of the youth in through St. George's L.P. School, Pariyaram. Hostel facility for the working women and college going young women, Grammar and spoken English classes for the youth, Counselling, are various ways in which the community reaches out in service.

Jeevadhara Family Renewal Centre aims at the Transformation of the families, the basic units of the church into missionary communities to build up the kingdom of God. Its mission is to equip the Christian families to fulfil the missionary responsibility entrusted to them through Baptism. To empower the individuals and families to radiate the joy of the Gospel by actively participating in the life of the church and the society. From 2005 JFRC conducted many Couples Retreats, Youth and Children Retreats, seminars, workshops, etc.

Service to the parish includes teaching of Catechism, animation of Family Units, animation of pious associations, family visits, etc.

50 years ago, we had gathered to ask God's help that we constantly needed in



various ways. In some way or other we all received many graces from God during these years. Therefore, it would be most fitting to raise our hearts and minds to God, the author of all these graces and thank Him sincerely for all the loving kindness that He has shown us. We are aware of the numberless blessings we received. Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.


To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven. With deep sentiments of appreciation that we bow before the Almighty to express our heart felt gratitude for all that has been for these 50 years. The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is His Name.

“Put out into the deep.... Remember the past with gratitude... live the present with enthusiasm...and look forward to the future with confidence”. These words of Pope John Paul II



make us to realize that the Province of India has cast its net into the deep waters.

Sailing is a wonderful experience. Sailing is the art of controlling a sailing vessel. By changing the rigging, rudder and dagger or center board, a sailor manages the force of the wind on the sails in order to change the direction and the speed of a boat. Mastery of the skill requires experience in varying wind and sea conditions, as well as knowledge concerning sail boats. It needs courage and confidence to take the risk, to leave behind the familiar shores and plunge into the unknown. It involves fighting against the current waves and strong storms of life to reach the shore. The years 1971-2021 had been an impet-



uous sailing experience for our Mother Generals, Provincials of USA, Regional Superiors, Vice-Provincials and Provincials of India with numerous blessings, adventurous journeys fighting the strong winds, even at times being collided by icebergs; and all this unfolds to the marvels that God has done in the sailing life of the Province of India. These years of administration, formation and mission have left an indelible mark on our minds and hearts. We sing the melody of gratitude from the depths of our hearts for these years of beautiful sailing experience to the Lord of the seas for the wonderful animation and capable administration that was offered to the Province of India.

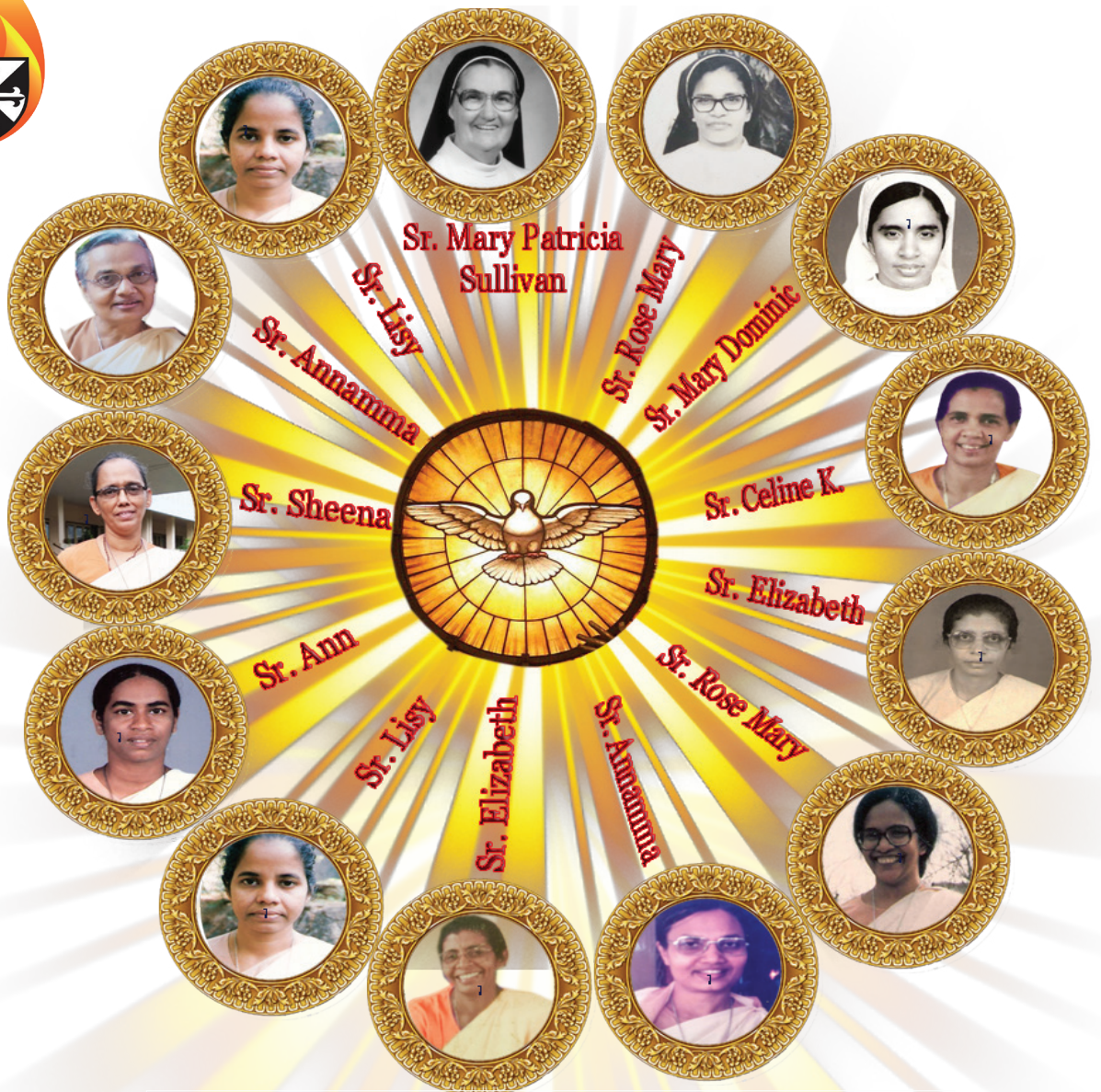
As a navigators you have been along side us who shared the voyage at an intimate level, encouraging us in our discernment where the life of the Province of India is going and what vision or hazards may lie ahead and courageously taking the risk with the belief that it's the providence of God that steers the boat. With much gratitude for the gift of your total self for the well being and growth of each sister, we raise our hearts and minds to the eternal navigator give you the necessary graces you are in need to continue to respond to the call of the Lord, wherever it may lead you.

Jeevadhara Convent

As a good mariner you, dear Superiors have stayed with calm alongside of the Provincials in every storm that took the Jeevadhara by surprise, in the turbulent as well as in the smooth waters. We express our heart felt thanks for your accompaniment with much appreciation, encouragement, understanding, love, care and sensitivity to each one of us. We thank you in the name of all the sisters, novices, postulants and Aspirants who passed through the portals of Jeevadhara Community, for your calm and humble availability. We pray that the Lord of the seas may guide your life's boat to deeper waters where you may have great catch. The transfers of the sisters were a great blessing, it helped most of the sisters of the province to be part of Jeevadhara community one time or other. Each one did their best to build up the community and the mission entrusted to each one. i will put together their efforts in the following words:

In life, do the ordinary, God will do the extraordinary,
Do the natural, God will do the supernatural,
Do the possible, God will do the impossible.

The basic rule of sailing is that it is not possible to sail directly into the wind but sailing with the wind coming from the starboard side. This had been the experience of sailing for the Jeevadhara Community. Every Ship needs the mariners that are daring and challenging when deciding which course to take. Dear Sisters, you have challenged, dared to question and be yourself in the part played in the voyaging of the Jeevadhara to reach the goal the Lord has marked out for it. We are grateful to you and we pray that you may continue to serve the Lord with clear vision and daring mission.



Animators of Jeevadhara Community for the past 50 years

Various Missions: In the hand of the eternal navigator we become at times a co-navigator, a mariner or a traveler. we are grateful to the Lord for the Doctors, Nurses, and other staffs, and patients of Jeevadhara Hospital, students whom He placed in St. Dominic's Study Centre, Children of Jeevadhara Girls Home, Hostelites, the couples, youth and children who attended various programs of Jeevadhara Family Renewal Centre to steer the boat of our community so that it will continue to journey in the path the Lord has planned for it. We thank the Lord for healing our patients, protecting our students from serious accidents, diseases and death and for the intellectual strength character formation which flowed to the students. We are grateful for the new things we could impart to them and for the various extra-curricular ac-



Present Community

tiv- ities that helped to have a better formation. We pray that the eternal navigator will continue to bless them abundantly in their endeavors and guide them through their successes and failures.

The beneficiaries are in our boat only because of their parents' interest, decision and their trust in the Navigator, co-navigators, mariners and the co-travelers. We pray in love and gratitude for the many hardships and burdens the parents undergo to give their children a worthwhile education, for their whole hearted support in the activities of Jeevadhara as well as the personnel interest and care they take for the integral growth of the students and the programs that goes on in Jeevadhara. We pray for them that the eternal navigator will continue to bless their trust, their generosity and fill them with gratitude for the many blessings.

Redeeming and loving God, you give us much. Help us to give as you give and to share as you share; to give joy and hope to those have sadness and despair; to give food and drink to those who hunger and thirst; to give justice and mercy to those who cry out for both; and to give truth to those who have been deceived and love to those who are lost.... help all of us to realize the great vocation you give us to make our words become flesh so that the blind may see, the deaf hear, and poor may have the Good News proclaimed to them by all who rejoice in their God-given talents and their gift of splendid creativity.

God of our life's journeys, we are at your feet to celebrate your goodness present and continue to accompany us as we journey on. We give you praise God of our journey, We thank you for the power of your love, the discovery of friends, the truth of beauty, for the wonder of growth, the kindling of fidelity, the taste of transformation, the seed of faith in our soul, for the miracle of life, the gift of becoming, for the taste of little dying which strengthened us for this moment, for the mystery of journey, bends in the road, the pauses that refresh, for the faith that lies deep enough to permeate discouragement and anxiety. We ask you Lord for your blessing upon each one us as we continue on the road of life. May the love that is in our hearts be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we maybe. May the power of your presence bless this moment of thanksgiving.

Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP



We Pay Homage

To some one who wanted to be a missionary when she was young
To some one who left her home land to be formed as a religious
To some one who left her home land to heal the sick in the Middle East
To some one who left her home land to start a foundation in the far East.

To some one who had a vision and was ready to give herself to make it a reality
To some one whose heart burned with missionary zeal
To some one who instilled courage and strength in the young to become missionaries
To some one who loved, affirmed, appreciated and challenged.

To some one who continued to be a missionary
through her prayers and sufferings in sickness
To some one who appreciated life and fought to preserve life
To some one who gave her whole life to the mission
To some one as dear as Sr. Pat we pay homage
As we remember our 50 years of our presence in India.

To some one who lived poor and humble as Francis did
To some one who was full of life, sharing his life with the others
To some one who was instrumental in bringing Presentation to India
To some one who loved us so much as to let us be ourselves.

To some one who was so simple ass to lay bare his heart to the others
To some one who knew to joke and to laugh
To some one who made friends with the rich and the poor alike
To some one who was a great Social Worker

To some one who was kind and compassionate
To some one who made himself free to serve the poor
To some one who was always ready to pay the price
To some one as dear as Fr. Claude we bring our homage
As we remember our 50 years of presence in India.

Sr. Reetha Mechery O.P.



St. Joseph: Mirror of Patience; A man of Action!



On December 8th, 2020, Pope Francis promulgated an apostolic letter titled “Patriscorde” (with a heart of a Father), extending the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph, the Patron of the universal Church to the whole of the year 2021 granting various indulgences to this anniversary. This proclamation was desired by Blessed Pius IX precisely on 8th of December 1870. The document of the Congregation of Cult (rites) which does not bear the signature of the Pope for reasons of political control, is addressed to the Urbi et Orbi (to the Town and to the World) to mean that St. Joseph, by divine will extend to the whole world. In fact, from the beginning of his history, having become by divine call to guard the first-born Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, made Saint Joseph the man predestined for the task of guarding. Pope Francis, in his apostolic letter, uses delicate and affectionate terms to describe Saint Joseph: “Beloved father, father of tenderness, father in obedience and acceptance, father with creative courage, worker, and man always in the shadows ...” Certainly, in this year dedicated to him we will all have the opportunity to taste what has already been and will still be written about Saint Joseph

We don't know a lot about Joseph- we know that his Father's name was Jacob and that he was the husband of Mary. We know that he was a carpenter and that he lived in Nazareth. We know that before he and Mary lived together, after their engagement, he found that she was pregnant and instead of shaming her or causing scandal, he decided to divorce her quietly. The Gospel tells that he did this because he was an upright man, a man of principles.



We also know that he was a righteous man who followed the law: He observed religious laws - we know he went to Jerusalem for the Jewish festivals. We also know that Joseph had dreams. God spoke to him through his dreams and he believed these dreams. What's also interesting to me is that nowhere in the Gospels as well, we ever hear anything Joseph says. He never says anything. But he's a man of action: he does what the angel tells him; he takes Mary as his wife; he goes to Bethlehem; he finds a place to stay for the night; he takes his family to Egypt... He's a man of action- not a man of words. At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture



even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that explains, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak.”

St. Joseph’s obedience is often something that comes up in conversations about him. As Scripture tells us of how obediently St. Joseph responded to God’s direction in caring for Mary and Jesus. However, a virtue that goes hand-in-hand with obedience is patience. St. Joseph did not demand to know the full plan laid out step-by-step before God’s chosen time. We must imagine he was anxious when he could not find a fitting place for Mary to give birth for Jesus. We must imagine how anxious he was to hear that his family was being hunted. But he patiently awaited the revelation of God’s plan, submitting himself completely to God’s providence.



St. Joseph was a model of all artisans, because he was fully talented, hard-working, with an eye for beauty and quality. It also reminds us that we are called to put our talents and creativity to use. You might think that being the foster father of Our Lord and Savior and the spouse of Our Lady would be enough to ask, but God blessed St. Joseph with a trade and he practiced that trade with integrity and skill. We are sanctified in our daily lives by seemingly “little things” we do to glorify God.

And just like God had a plan for Joseph, God has a plan for each one of us. Let us be like St Joseph open to understand in every circumstance His plan whatever it may be. May He intercede for us, especially during this year to be more like Him, who is “a Mirror of Patience and a Man of Action.”

Sr. Jyothi Susanna Mary A. OP

Union of St. Catherine of Siena, School Missionaries

“Challenges come to make us better, not bitter”



Since childhood, it's been drilled in our heads by our parents, teachers and elders that challenges are a part of our life. Yes, life is unpredictable; it throws challenges and opportunities for improvement and growth. This was exactly what happened when Covid -19 struck the entire human race. In the beginning everyone thought it's just a flu but when it began to take control of man's reasoning, intellect and wisdom, we human beings felt helpless and hopeless in front of the invisible enemy. Fear and anxiety began to soar in all. The world faced lockdown. Schools were the first to close down in India, the exams were cancelled.

EDUCATION ONLINE



The pandemic that shuttered economics around the world also battered education systems in developing and developed countries. The students were no longer able to physically go to school. It struck our education system like a lightning bolt and shook it to its core, just as the first industrial revolution, forged today's system of education. The impact was dramatic and transformative as teachers scrambled to put in place workable short-term solutions for remote teaching and learning. It was not easy for teachers to move from the physical class room to virtual class room. It is very common that one tends to give up when the routine life is disturbed, but the educators kept up their motto “Never say never”. They took up the challenge and empowered themselves through various trainings and seminars to impart innovative and qualitative education to

the children. The education system began to sail safely in the troubled waters of the pandemic. Their optimistic attitude to face the challenge was the greatest weapon for every educator during this challenging time. When one looks at challenges with an attitude of optimism, his/her life becomes interesting and entertaining. Then the result of one's struggle bears much fruit and it makes one strong and focused paving the way for growth. Challenges stimulate one's mind to



become creative and innovative and it helps to find alternate solutions to the issues. The educators tried their best in various ways to make the virtual class rooms interactive and entertaining through creative videos and presentations.

The actual realization of one's strengths and weaknesses are the very signs of transformation. This transformation has been brought about by the pandemic in every human being, more so in teachers, as they depended on each other for assistance and guidance to make their virtual class room an innovative one and kept up the students' enthusiasm in learning. Hence, we can boldly say that the challenges make us better not bitter. The challenges provided a platform to grow in interpersonal trust and relationship.

Just like the frontline workers, the educators also were on the frontline working beyond their regular hours to impart education to the children. The challenges teach us the value of hard work and ignite in our minds that comfortable living will ruin our life. A life without struggle, without hard work, without challenges will be weak because when something difficult comes our way, we wouldn't know how to handle it. We cannot grow without struggles; we cannot develop strength without resistance. So, our challenges are like shadows which follow us from womb to tomb to not only make us better but stronger persons.

Sr. Arockiamal Antony OP

Union of St. Catherine of Siena, School Missionaries

Farmer-Nature's Friend



Farmer-Nature's Friend

O diligent eco-friendly farmer
Indeed you are the earth's silent reformer
I wonder your thousand hopes
When you water the crops!

Your innocent face is seen glowing
When you see the plants growing!
You do not take a holiday
As you toil each and every day!

How magnanimous is your heart
To think of every man's plate
The monsoon failure does not keep you sad for long
As the break of another monsoon
stir in you a happy song!

Sr. Irudaya Mary.M OP

Union of St. Catherine of Siena, School Missionaries



The blessings of God in disguise during the pandemic over St. Dominic Convent English Medium School, Mannarkkad



As St. Dominic Convent English Medium School, Mannarkkad celebrates its 18 years of committed service and incredible growth, we feel honoured to appraise the activities and achievements, as well as to commend and compliment all who made yet another fruitful year 2020-21 possible despite the outbreak of COVID-19. Following the Dominican's vision of education and the ideals enunciated by our patron, St. Dominic, we could provide a holistic education aimed at grooming our children into academically excellent, intellectually talented and socially acceptable human beings and efficient enterprising global leaders. The dedication, commitment, and generosity of the teaching and non-teaching staff are important factors in the incredible growth of the school during the academic year 2020-21.

Virtual Science Exhibition.



With online classes on full flow, the exhibition offered the students much needed opportunity to connect with fellow peers and to showcase their creativity, innovation, and scientific



temperament. Our annual Science Exhibition was held on 28th of November and its online inauguration was done by Mr.Toms Varghese (health Inspector). Students were encouraged to develop a scientific fervour and an attitude of research mindedness so that they develop the qualities of analytical and critical thinking. Creativity and imagination, Innovative ideas, out-of-box thinking, logical explanation, new method of problem solving, originality of ideas and scientific and mathematical innovation were the judgement parameters for the projects.

Christmas Celebration



To cherish peace and goodwill our school celebrated its first virtual Christmas celebrations in a unique way with great fervor and enthusiasm. The boundless joy of celebrating this festival was quite evident on the faces of each child. First time during pandemic, all the staff members gathered together to make the event a grand success. Christmas message was given by Mar Peter Kochupurackal (Auxiliary Bishop, Palakkad). Christmas carol song, Santa dance, carol and flash mob were performed by staff. Christmas Competitions: crib making, Christmas tree, Christmas cake making, Santa dance, speech, card making, star making and carol song were arranged to make the children feel the real spirit of Christmas.

Offline Pre-board exam for grade 10



It is that time of the year again as schools affiliated with CBSE have started conducting offline pre-Board examination for the year 2021. We managed to conduct pre-board exams successfully in offline mode by strictly following COVID-19 safety measures and as per the



CBSE guidelines issued according to the paper pattern. We had conducted virtual sessions with students and parents and had ensured a fair exam by strictly adhering to the protocols. Maintaining physical distance norms as prescribed in the classrooms as well as in the premises of the school were made mandatory. The Students who wrote the exam had to compulsorily obtain written consent of their parents. We ensured sanitation of the school from time to time so as not to give scope for any complaints.

Edglobe Learning App Launching ceremony

Our school is looking into various opportunities which can deliver the best results to their students during the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the rise in the demands for the online apps, Edglobe has come to the rescue of the locked-down students inside their homes. Our school launched the online Edglobe app, a global learning app with 360° approach to complete learning for students of class 1 to 12. The launching ceremony was graced by Mr. Basheer, the municipal chairman of Mannarkkad. Edglobe offers the best online and offline learning and teaching tools with unmatched content quality and features for students and teachers and brings everyone in the education community together to help learners succeed and discover their passions and improve their skills.

St. Dominic Convent English Medium School is indebted to each and every one for your valuable support and encouragement; the dedication and untiring efforts have taken our school to the towering heights of success and accomplishments. We will continue to provide a holistic education that turns out capable students well equipped with 21st century skills to take on the challenges that the world will throw at them.



ST.DOMINICS ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL SREEKRISHNAPURAM

During this corona time we could do few charitable works in our area. Our teachers visited the nearby Orphanage and distributed some clothing and small funds.

During the silver Jubilee of the school the students, parents and teachers together collected 14 Lakhs to build a house for the poor. On 12th January 2021 Our school Principal Sr. Stella OP put the foundation stone for the house and its work is in progress.



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BLESSING OF THE ST. DOMINICS CONVENT ALAKKODE



Bishop George Njaralakkatt, the Bishop of Thalassery diocese, Blessed and Inaugurated the New Convent built by the Dominican sisters of the Holy Trinity, On 26th December 2020. Superior general Sr. Elsy OP and councilors, a limited number of Priests sisters and lay persons were invited to participate in this function. We express our gratitude, for the presence of the Holy fathers Bishop George Njaralakkatt Superior general and Councilors, Marygiri Parish priest Fr. Mathew Manimatharappel , Fr. Jinson OP ,Sisters

Diaconate Ordinations and Upcoming Priestly Ordinations

With great joy, we celebrated the Diaconate Ordination of two of our friars, Brs. Kamson Teron and Bobin Varghese on 7th March, 2021. The uncertainty and the restrictions due to the Covid pandemic prevented us from celebrating this in January, on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, as is our usual custom. Providently, however, the date of the ordinations this year was formerly the feast day of this saint in the older Roman calendar, as well as the anniversary of his death.

The Sacrament was conferred by His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonzalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, who in his homily, reflecting upon the readings of the Second Sunday of Lent, as well as the meaning of the diaconate, exhorted our brothers to serve worthily in the sacred ministry to which they were to be ordained. Due to the prevailing restrictions,



the liturgical celebration was only attended by the friars and sisters of the Dominican communities in Nagpur. In order to reach out to the family members and well-wishers of our brothers who could not be present, the entire service was live streamed and is available for viewing on the YouTube channel Dominican Media Mission. At the conclusion of the Holy Mass, Bro. Kamson expressed his gratitude to all those people whose prayers and service had accompanied them and made their day blessed and memorable. 'At Table with St. Dominic' is the theme of our jubilee this year, and thus we fittingly concluded our celebrations with a festive fellowship meal.

Three of our deacons, Bros. Vijay D'Souza, Dileep Veigas and Joe Antony are currently serving in the pastoral ministry in the parishes of Moodubelle (Diocese of Udupi), Nithyadar Nagar (Diocese of Mangalore) and Vettucad (Archdiocese of Trivandrum) respectively. Bros. Joe, Dileep and Vijay will be ordained to the priesthood in their respective home parishes on the 15th, 17th and 18th of May respectively. We request your prayers for our brothers as they prepare to ascend the Altar of the Lord.

Fr. Nigel Furtado OP



Here I am even in these times.....



Today the Dominicans of Santa Maria of the Rosary thank God for He continues to call courageous women to follow Jesus unconditionally even in the midst of these pandemic. On 13th February 2021, the long waited day of the final commitment of the three of our sisters Sr Agnes, Sr Sukanya and Sr Vineetha (surnames) dawned in all its splendor and glory .The Holy Mass began at 11.15, the Chief Celebrant Fr Savio...began the solemn celebration of the Eucharist with the note of appreciation to the sisters for their life of commitment and courage. In the homily he exhorted them to be faithful to God and to their commitment through Prayer, Word of God and Love.



The sisters were examined by the main celebrant. Sr Sheeba Kalloor- the Regional Superior received the vows on the behalf of Mother General- Mother Maria Perdacchio. The message of the Mother General was read by Sr Sheeba for the professed sisters. Followed by the Holy Mass was the time for special greeting, felicitations and cutting

of the cake and sumptuous meal. Every one took part in the Agape.

We thank God for the gift of these three sisters to the church and to our Congregation. Sincere thanks to the community of Chattupal for their immense service and hospitality.





St. Joseph: - A challenge and Resilience

It is said “silence isn’t empty, it is full of answers. Anyone who listens to the silence of his heart will have a different view of his existences and other virtues emanates from it”. This saying is completely applicable to the life of St. Joseph, the patron of the universal church. Let me dwell little deeper into his personality.

Listening was the rhythm of his life. He never complained or argued over anything that he had to encounter. He had a family, who trusted him. He was silent, kind and just. Angels of heaven visited him when he slept. He chose to stand behind the shadows. He neither bickered around nor shouted; his silence won the humanity; his dreams enlighten world’s salvation. YES, HE is the man who is the private privilege of the Holy family. St. Joseph- the most admired man since his era.

St. Joseph was the man of dreams, who was crucial for the will of God to be fulfilled. The legal Father of Jesus was visited by angels during his sleep and received wisdom including instructions and warnings of impending dangers. This foresight aided him to lead and protect the Holy Family during the time of exile.

Joseph was the man whom heaven trusted. He was obedient until his last death. He was never in the spot light meanwhile; he resolved the impossible issues with composure. St. Joseph was the ‘fiancé’ who accepted Mary with unconditional love, even after the unexpected declaration of her pregnancy. He was the person who deeply understood God’s plans and accepted all the odds, whole heartedly.

Silence was his peculiarity that enabled him to be attentive and responsive to the Lord’s plans. We hear- not a single word from St. Joseph, in the Gospel. He was a man of action with Zero- words-a true model for every Christian, whose sanctity shines through silence. He was a wise and loyal servant, who heavens entrusted Mary, the mystery. There is nothing to exaggerate when thinking that, Jesus learnt the joy of being obedient, the relevance of silence and how to judge situations through his father.

Justice was another rule. A just man is a person who does what he should. He did what he could as an individual, as a member of





society and as a child of God. This year the church celebrated 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal church. The safety of the church is fully secure in his hands. Heavens cannot reject any of his pleas, because he accepted and fulfilled heavens wishes. So, let us allow ourselves to be brimming with the silence of Joseph in a world that is too noisy.

Oh dear St. Joseph, pray for your children to seek the will of God in every sphere of life. Grant us courage to listen our brethren, in silence. May your justice and patronage enlighten our world too.....

Sr. Maria Rosanna OP
Dominican Sisters of Pompei