



Dominican Sisters of the Presentation,

Mission sharing Bulletin, February 2021

Mysore community is situated in the state of Karnataka in KRS (Krishna Raja Sagara), Hosaundavadi village, in Mandya district. We belong to the diocese of Mysore, in Hulikere parish. The community began its journey with the blessings and grace of God on 3rd June 2017 with its specific call to form the Postulants and Aspirants. Sr. Arul Selvi Ignasiammal M, Sr. Theresamma C and Sr. A. Jenet were the pioneers to begin this mission. We are completing four years of our presence here. At present we are 7 of us, three sisters (Sr. Ann Padinjakkara, Sr. Jacline Dhanwar and Sr. A. Jenet) and four postulants (Amali Josephine, Flora Agnes G, Archana Minz and Sujitha R). Two batches of Postulants and two batches of Aspirants have completed their formation from this community. We have the pleasure to proclaim the joy of our mission experience here through this 'Pro-missio' News Letter.

- **Formation of Postulants** is the priority of our community. Our goal is to provide a human, cultural, spiritual and pastoral preparation of the postulants with a special attention to lead them to wholeness through the charism of St. Dominic and Blessed Marie Poussepin.
- We foster the **faith of the laity** through liturgical animation, faith formation classes, youth ministry, organized family visit on Sundays and Eucharistic adoration on Friday in the community for the faithful. We collaborate with the parish, respect and welcome the richness of the laity in order to encourage them to participate in the parish activities actively.
- Through our hospitality and prayerful support, we are open to welcome and listen to the joys and struggles of our **non-Catholic friends** around us.

“You may have known Christ and His saving power in your life. You may have received the power of His Spirit. Christ may have done great and marvellous things for you. But unless you have shared this with others, how will they know? Unless you speak to people, how will they hear? And unless they hear, how can they believe and be saved?” Rom 10:3-14.

This impels us to share our experience of the Lord and the joy of living our religious life for the service of the people in the above mentioned areas. May this newsletter 'Pro-Missio' moves us forward to continue to proclaim Christ with much enthusiasm for the love of the Lord.

The Joy of becoming “all things to all people”



What a delight it is has been to serve our brothers and sisters in a land that is not ours, culture not ours, language not ours and people who are not ours. The words of St. Paul become a reality in our day to day life. **“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some”** 1Cor. 9:22. Willingness to learn the language, culture and adapt certain ways of the people in order to be one with them (food habits, love for agriculture and care for domestic animals etc), let go our familiar comforts and become

flexible, open, generous, hospitable and available) in order to reach out to people who come to us, has been a most satisfying way to live. One of the many blessings and opportunities as a missionary is to share the joy of the Gospel ‘to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.’ We are not fixed with the mission of formation of postulants; rather we enter into the lives of the people through various ways to spread the joy of the Lord. Authentic joy and true happiness is found in God’s presence. 1 Chr. 16:27 says that “strength and joy fill his dwelling.” Psalm 16:11 reminds us that joy and “eternal pleasures” are found in God’s presence. Ultimately the strength, joy and peace that we experienced from the Lord, impels us to become all thing for all people. When we live and are concerned for the Lord and His people, naturally we make difference in our lives, community and the people around us. It’s indeed my pleasure to share those experiences.



Dedication at all times

Jesus was so dedicated that He even said to His disciples **“My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do”** Jn 4:34. Jesus, the greatest personal evangelist who ever lived, went on eating this “food” until the day He cried, “It is finished” For Him the Will of



God was more important than even his own life. He did what he was sent to do. We have dedicated our life through religious life for the service of the people of God. A life dedicated to become all for all. Though we are in the formation house, we have to give ourselves completely all the time, not only for the needs of the formees, and community

but also for the pastoral care (parish activities, for the youth who come to the community to get right guidance, spent time with the people come to pray in the community with their brokenness) and the needy around us. We can’t become all for all unless we are totally dedicated, unless we

realize that it is part of our life our commitment, we will not see good results. Jesus priority was that, doing the will of God. Individually, we let go and adjust our personal agenda and comfort, personal ministry and be committed at all times. It gives joy to be all for all, regardless of our self-interests.

Daring at all times

Jesus talked to people everywhere He went. He talked to people in their homes. He received them wherever He was staying. We see Him walking by the seaside, talking to people on the streets. He once said to His disciples, “Let us go on to the next towns that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out” Mk 1:38. Jesus is our model to enter into the lives of the people.

He was daring to make a difference in the lives of the

individuals and the society. He went out of His way to make this difference. To become all things for all, we need to be daring personalities who will be able to take challenges and risks ready to respond to God any time.

We had the opportunity to care for a poor youth who met with an accident at the beginning of corona. He had no one as relative accept his sick mother. The Lord used us to strengthen that family. We took the risk though we had the fear of corona situation. We did know what to do? We sought the help of many in person and financially to admit him and cared for him. People were desperate during corona time, they come to us to pray, at times we have gone to the houses to pray with all the precautions. We take the risk to respond to the cry of the people by finding sources for them. Unless we enter into the lives of the people like Jesus, we can't make any differences in the individuals and the society, dare to be different then we become the channels of God's grace in the lives of others and save some.

Sharing at all Times

In order to become all things for all, we have to learn to share what we are and what we have. Giving brings joy.

There is give and take attitude in the community. The community is very generous in sharing our resources, talents and materials with the others. People feel one with us, people feel free to approach us, feel at home us. They are there for us at any time for any kind of need. All of us in the community attend to them the best way possible. All those who enter our campus should go back with a positive experience, experiencing the



love, peace and joy of Jesus. There is a lot of sharing with our parishners, religious communities around us and the non-Catholic friends. When we give ourselves for them going extra mile, in a way we try to come to their level. **"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you "** Lk 6:38. Give away what we have and become all things for all people without expecting any reward. But the Lord has blessed us abundantly with a lot of generous hearts who cheer us various ways.

Losing at all times



If we want to become someone in the life of somebody we need to lose a lot. This losing is to save others. **"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it"** Mt. 10:39. It gives us the strong desire to help the needy. We had to let go our time - when people need our listening ear, helping hand, go extra mile with them to help when no one is there for them; let go our fixed programs – to be with the people who come to us, many a times as a community to become the life

giving, comforting presence of Jesus; let go pain to give away what we owned – share with the needy and well-wishers what we earn from the property from our hard work, etc. We have to lose something in order save someone. **"To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews..... win those under the law"** 1 Cor. 9:20-21. We are flexible and available to the Lord according to the demands of the time.

Yes, we are determined, for as long as God wills, to be “all things to people of all sorts” without liming our giving.

Sr. Jenet

Responsible Stewards of God’s Creation



We’ve all been blessed with the gift of this amazing Earth. God made man the steward of nature. “The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men” (Psalm 115:16). The earth is God’s creation and it is filled with God’s glory. In the Encyclical ‘*Laudato si*’ Pope Francis speaks about the care for our common home. “Praise to you my Lord” in the words of the beautiful canticle of St. Francis of Assisi reminds us our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise to you my Lord through our sister, mother earth who provides various fruits with different flowers and herbs.”

When the cyclical came out, all the communities were asked to study and reflect and put into practice what the pope was asking us. It was an eye opener for all of us. We never thought of earth playing a great part in our planet. He gives a lot of importance to the earth by respecting the mother earth. Earth is a beautiful mother who embraces us all and sustains and govern us. We never thought of the earth this way. There is a lot of awareness have taken place in our life.



In our community, we use our land properly; by planting trees, planting seasonal grains for our own. We feel so good to eat the vegetables, fruits and grains from our own land. Occasionally we are able to share the produce of land with our neighboring communities. We cultivate vegetables for our own use. Very seldom we

buy vegetables from outside. It is a joy to have our own vegetables.

Nature is the great teacher of contemplation. In the gospels, Jesus is teaching us “Unless the grains of wheat fall in the ground and dies it cannot produce any fruits, but if it dies it produces abundant fruit”. It is true, I have experienced this when we plant a seed it becomes one with the nature and dies in order to bring new shoots. Our life is also one of these dying to one self to bring



forth new life. I also have seen when we transplant the small plants, first they shed their leaves and it has to adjust to the new place and new situations. Then the new leaves and shoots come out. Changes are necessary for our growth. During the lock down we helped some families to have their kitchen garden by providing them some seeds. They were extremely happy to have some vegetables. They shared their fruits with us.

Our fruit trees started to yield. It is such a joy to pluck fruits from our own trees and eat fresh fruits. The mango trees started to flower, may be this year we will get some mangoes. We also enjoy delicious plantains from our tree. We rare goats, chickens and rabbits. It is nice to live surround by these animals and beautiful nature. The whole house seems to be full of life. We feel one with the nature when we take care of them. It is wonderful to watch the mystery of creation, especially when the new chicks come out from the mother hen takes care of her chicks. She feeds her chicks with a lot of attention. It is good to watch the mother whenever she gets a piece of food, she breaks into small pieces and calls the chicks with a special tone and they run and eat the food. The mother is always on the watch to see if any enemy comes on her way. She gives a



warning to the chicks and they hide themselves under her wings. It helps me to reflect how God takes care of me. No wonder Jesus quoted looking at Jerusalem saying “how I wanted to gather you like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Though they have no intellect or will, they teach a lot of lessons for life.

We are very much aware of our mother earth and try to keep our surroundings clean. During the season of advent, we decided as a community concretely to respect the earth and pay attention to cleanliness in personal hygiene and the common things and surrounding. We do not use any pesticide. We use the manure from our own animal waste and make compost manure with the kitchen waste. We also have rain water harvesting. We segregate the waste and also not to use and throw materials.



God is our creator, who always sees to our needs and provides us whatever we need through the earth. Praise to you mother earth who sustains and govern us. Father, we praise you with all our creatures. They come forth from your all-powerful hand. They are yours filled with your presence and your tender love.

In order for us to be good stewards of God’s creation, we must first acknowledge God’s role as the author and the true owner of everything that is—both the visible and the invisible universe. Our proper role as stewards is to express our gratitude and to do our part to nurture and protect all that the Creator God has entrusted to our care. For this to happen, it is essential to develop a relationship between humanity and the environment that mirrors the creative love of God, and that recognizes we all come from God and that his creation is truly



“our common home.” We are called to be responsible stewards of God’s creation. Let’s pray that all of us—individuals, families, communities, nations and the world community—respond to this call with transparency and with the willingness to sacrifice for the common good of all.

Sr. Ann Padinjakkara

Be my witnesses.....



"Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on." Pope Francis

A Witness tells what she knows

The dictionary defines the word "witness"

this way: "One who has seen or heard something". A witness is someone who can say, "I know this is true." The words of 1 John 1:1, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." John says, "I



saw him, I heard him, I walked with him, I touched him." I have completed four years of my religious life in the congregation. And my experience as a sister makes me glad. As I look back the four years of my committed life, there were times of ups and down that helped me to realize the power of God in me. Yes, I heard him, walked with Him and experienced Him. I feel happy and proud of those experiences when God made use of me. I experience love, care, support and encouragement from my sisters. I was in Dalmadi and Provincial House community and at present in Mysore community. The fraternal love and care that I receive every day helps to grow towards my wholeness of life. I got many opportunities to form myself, to deepen my community living, being open to the way of living and my apostolic life responding to the needs of others. Those experiences help me to journey ahead towards the Lord, to understand His will for me as I continue to hearken his voice day by day. I am called to witness that great love. God gives me opportunities through

various ways to speak of Him to others.

A Witness shares what she has experienced

I teach and help the Postulants what I have learned and experienced. It makes me strong and happy to share God's blessings. I am glad to share my experiences of God, the joy of serving Him and how I am growing in my faith in God, with the postulants, catechism children and my friends in the college. I feel proud to



become His witness in my given context. I try to reach out to the children with what I have. I find joy by sharing and listening to them.

The main mission of mine is study, as I am doing my Bacher of Arts in Maharani College, Mysore. It is a privilege for me to study in a government institution with other religion friends, who have lots of questions and doubt about our life style how we live. They are surprised to hear from me certain things which they do not expect, the way we live our vocation for the service of others to glorify God. I am happy to share about Jesus and our way of living the life style. They are eager to listen to me and challenged by me that we live such a life, impossible thing happens possible. They have less knowledge about Christianity and consecrated life. Some time they too challenge me saying I am wasting my life as a sister. But I could convince them saying that I am proud of myself what I am and make them to understand why we live this way of life and who gives us strength that is Jesus Christ himself. There is joy to belong to Him. These experiences of mine made me stronger and firm in my vocation and I take this opportunity to proclaim Jesus and his values through my way of living. The words of Jesus echoes in my heart **“be my witness to the ends of the earth.”**



As St. Paul says, **“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel”** 1Cor: 9:16. My heart is burning with great zeal for the Lord, to share his love with others. Because what I have or possess is not my own but His. All through the past years of ups and down strengthens me to move out of myself to bear witness to Christ. I know there will be a moment of happiness and sadness which will give me courage to go ahead in my religious life. And above all Jesus will be with me. As I continue to share my life or form myself day by day I feel proud to tell that God send his Son to make Him known and its my turn to make Him know through my life.

Sr. Jacline Dhanwar

Community - God’s Design for Growth



God never intended for any of us to live the Christian life alone. In the Bible from the beginning till the end we see that man is a social being and should be lived in the community. Jesus himself gives up the example of living in the community. Community life is one of God’s greatest gifts. Act. 2:44 says **“They came together and had everything in common.”**

Community is sharing a common life in Christ. It moves us beyond the self-interest and isolation of private lives to Christian fellowship. Holy Spirit plays an important role in the community. The Spirit inspires us to live in unity.

Community Becomes Channel of God's grace

Jesus always prayed in the common. Jesus himself said **“wherever two or three are gathered in my name I will be with you”**. We are being strengthened in our prayer life as we learn to pray in the community, and are inspired by the sharing of each other during the prayer. Reflections, meditations, adoration and other spiritual activities are strengthening us for our



growth. We are blessed to have our sisters who are constantly with us. They dedicate every last Saturday of the month praying for us by name and for our families. We really feel and experience God's grace in us. Bl. Marie Poussepin advises us to pray for each sister daily. Community not only helps and inspire us to pray, but prays for us and become channels of God's grace for our support, care and growth.

Community Guides Us to Grow into Maturity

Personal attention is given to each of us to walk towards a maturity. Sisters are with us as a constant guide and support. We feel that the more we are corrected the more we see the growth in us. Whenever we get discouraged or disappointed sisters guided us through spiritual direction. They are ever ready to spend their energy, time and are very patient with us. We are corrected with love, to behave in a good manner with our



community members. We realize its blessing to have sisters who love, accept and guide us to the right way. We need to be open to accept the role community in our lives. Romans 12: 10 tells “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.” Community life is a happy life though it has its own ups and downs. We experience God's love by working together, adjusting with one another and sharing a common life. We accept each person as they are and try our best to give

ourselves for the community. We deeply experience the joy of being together in the community as one family and feel the belongingness.


Community a Place to Serve

Marie Poussepin says “Charity must be the soul of the community”. We are learning to take up little responsibilities in the community. We are also part of decision making when any common programs are there. It helps us to respond to the community in a responsible way and to take initiative to do. There is helping, understanding and are concerned about each other. No matter we are old or young, intelligent or unintelligent all experience acceptance and care, and give themselves fully for the service of the community. **“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”** Mt. 20:28. We experience the love of Christ in through one another.

We will know the beauty and the value of ourselves only when we are in the company of others. We need the other in order to be fully ourselves, where we grow together towards the same destiny.

Flora Agnes

Formation for Mission



Jesus formed his disciples instructing, training and guiding them. Jesus knew that His disciples were weak and unworthy but Jesus found His weak disciple for the future mission. So, that they may become strong and vibrant in this mission. After forming them He sent them two by two for the mission. He called them **“.....to be with him and he might send them out.....”** Mk.3:14. The purpose of our formation is too the same.

Every moment we are being challenged, crushed, broken and strengthened, to face the future mission with boldness with the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus found His weak disciples who had a lot of differences like rich and poor, young and old, Intelligent and unintelligent and so on. But He did not leave any one to get



lost. Disciples who were like cowards finally

becomes very bold and ready to die for Jesus. In a similar way sister are forming us how to deal with the children, youth and the elderly and how to behave in front of outsiders in a mature way. We are really happy to have our sisters who are really trying their best for our growth.



In John: 14:6 Jesus says **“I am the way the truth and the life”**. We know Jesus will show us the way ahead. We are given many opportunities to involve in the ministry. As Jesus took the disciples wherever He went, we accompany the sisters to learn what to do and how to do. We have the opportunity to visit the houses of our parish, go for prayers in the family and village with the sisters. Sisters sent us to the poor families to give our vegetables, grains and money to the poor families. We take care of the parish sacristy service. We learn the sacredness of doing those duties in a respective manner. We are learning to mingle with the parishners, at times we get scared or not feel free to approach people. When we relate to the children and youth we have learned to have our own stand as sisters. We go for shopping, we see on the way, in the market poor people struggling for their livelihood. These challenges us to think and learn from them lot of lessons for life. We listen from the sisters many people’s life experiences, which helps us to learn how sisters are responding to such situations.

Sisters involve us in everything to experience the joys and struggles in the mission. And we are privileged and very happy to take part in the ministry of the community. We know one day we have to carry out this mission of Jesus. We too will be sent out to bear witness to Him.

Archana Minz

Why should one be born again?



Grace is built upon nature. It does not destroy nature but it only perfects the nature. We humans are created in the image and likeness of God as Bible says in Gen.1: 27. **“and so God created man in his own image and likeness”**. But we have lost the image of God in us through our sins. We need to be born again to get back that image and likeness of God. We are to become that perfect image and likeness of which God intended us to be. We need grow to face life as it is with all its joys and challenges, to bloom wherever we are planted. It

will help us to be a real disciple of Christ. At times we are frustrated to allow God to touch our lives. Now, we understand that we should not lose heart if the transformation doesn’t happen right away. It’s not an overnight thing. It’s a lifelong process. We have to continue our effort. That’s why St. Paul says *“we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day”* 2nd Cor. 4:16 by God’s Spirit. He is working in us.



We have completed seven months as postulants, we notice God's work in us, our understanding of God and ourselves have grown. But this realization was not an easy process. The apostle Paul instructs to "wake from sleep" Romans 13:11-12 and "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light." In order to serve God we need to let go a lot unwanted realities of ourselves and put on Christ. This calls us to grow into mature Christians. We are called to be different for a different purpose entrusted to us. This impels us to take responsibility for our growth and allow God to mould us into His image. We have come to a realization that this growth is impossible by our own effort. The following means will surely lead us to achieve this transformation / rebirth.

Holy Spirit help us

Holy Spirit the advocate, who constantly guides, supports and helps us to know the right path, plays an important role in our maturity towards Christ. Holy Spirit helps us to forgive, accept, humble and leads us towards Holiness. When we depended on our own self most of the time we were guided by our own ego and we experienced unhappiness and disappointment. But when we prayed to the Holy Spirit and allowed the Spirit to move in us, the same situation turned into a moment of grace resulting growth and joy. Jesus tells in John 3:5, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."** He has promised the Holy Spirit to each one of us, **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things"** Jn.14:26.



Word of God



Word of God strengthens and gives courage to face life. It's alive and active. Daily meditation on word of God, reflection and the sharing has given us comfort, hope, strength and joy. It also challenges us and forms us to know our nothingness and the greatness of God. It helps us to listen to God's way for us. 1 Peter 1:23 **"for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God"**, Yes Word take root in our lives and bears fruit.

Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation

In order to born again, we need the grace of God. Sacraments are the channels of grace. Daily Mass helps us to offer ourselves to be moulded into His likeness. We unite our sorrows and struggles with Christ to be

transformed by the Lord. The Eucharistic adoration gives us strength to trust God and believe in His grace. The sacrament of reconciliation enable us accept our failure and to be humble before the Lord to change our ways. All these give us opportunity to be born again.

Accompaniment

Community is constantly with us to guide, appreciate and correct us whenever we go wrong. We are really blessed to have such a good community, which makes us to feel at home, accepts us as we are and accompany us with their support and love. They know our movements and feelings, and continue to walk with us. We are really proud to get these opportunities through our sisters to grow towards God. Our companions accompany us both in times of difficulty and in times of happiness. We are given personal accompaniment through spiritual direction. It is one of the most helpful platforms to grow, which really helps us to have a positive outlook on ourselves and the life. It guides us to choose the right path. Through spiritual direction we learn to open ourselves, trust, and confidence and get convictions of right ways. Through this we are being born again for God's service.

Amali Josephine

Empowering to Empower



Empower simply means to give strength and confidence to others. Formation helps us to get empowered and to empower others. In each stages of our formation, we are being empowered. Many opportunities are given, many hearts and hands have worked hard to lead us enter into this process. Although these facilities are there, ultimately we need to take personal effort so that we may empower others for Christ. Unless we are liberated, freed and motivated,

the quality of our service will be less.

We are empowering in the knowledge and experience of Jesus, Bible, religious life, Church and the congregation. Our learning's, reflections, presentations and assignments on the above help us to grow a step ahead. We are learning to reflect the Word of God and give reflections. We have bible quiz on Sundays of the readings of the week, it motivates us to read and reflect the daily reading carefully and attentively. We feel happy that we have grown. We understood little more about what religious life is and the charism of the congregation.





It helps us to think seriously about our attraction towards consecrated life. We need to be convinced of what we are going to live.

We are growing in our personality. Psychological and anthropological classes are really helpful and heart tugging, that our lives to be lived for others not for our selfish needs. We are learning to take responsibilities, take decisions in little ways, and learn by doing. On Saturdays and Sundays, we have the special opportunity to conduct

programs and recreation and biblical story presentations, which really help us to increase our confidence, courage, specially helps us to think, plan, organize and to be creative. We are empowering ourselves for the future mission of Christ. We are also privileged to have voice training for singing, learning music (Cassio and Tabla), sewing, singing, dancing, painting and cooking everything is open plat form for us to empower ourselves. It helps us develop our potentialities to be used for the good of the others.



We thank God who strengthens us day by day. We see the hand of God lifting us up and guiding us. We are sure he will make us strong for He says in Matthew 9:13 **“For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”** His grace is sufficient for us.

Sujitha R

