



Dominican Sisters of the Presentation Mission Sharing Bulletin March, 2021

Duliajan Community - Assam



Realities unveil each day with new faces, new needs and new urgencies and they inspire with new possibilities for mission. Paying heed to the realities of North East and responding to the invitation of his Lordship Rt. Rev. Joseph Aind, the then Bishop of Dibrugarh, on 8th of August 2016, on the feast of St. Dominic the Preacher of Grace who set out in faith as an itinerant pilgrim to capture the souls for the lord his Master, the new members, Sr. Kochuthresia Myalil and Sr. A. Mary Jayanti with Provincial Sr. Philomina Vengachottil and Provincial Councillor Sr. Rose Mary Kadampattuparambil arrived in Duliajan to begin the first community of Dominican Sisters of the Presentation in North East. Blessed Marie Poussepin, who seeing pitiable plight of the people of Sainville left her prosperous home town of Dourdan, is always our inspiration.



After the long journey of three days and four nights, we reached Dibrugarh on 11th August 2016. We had a warm welcome by the Bishop of Dibrugarh Rt. Rev. Joseph Aind SDB and the fathers of the Bishop's house. A day of rest in Bishop's house prepared us to march on our journey to the new mission station Duliajan Oil town (Duliajan derives its name from Dulia meaning palanquin bearers of the Ahom King and Jan meaning a River stream. It is also known as Oil town since Oil India Limited has its second largest hydro- carbon exploration and production unit there. The operational headquarters of the company is situated in Duliajan, Assam. We were cordially welcomed by the Parish priest, Rev. Fr. John Mannathany and the principal, Fr. Paulus Kullu of St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School along with hostel boys and girls, according to the tradition of Assam.



On the very next day of our arrival the parish had conducted two days of retreat for the parishioners by the Vincentian father's. It was a great opportunity for us to begin our new Mission by being with the Lord. On the feast of Assumption of Mary our mother and the 70th year of Independence of our country we officially began our ministry of education in St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Duliajan. It is run by the Diocese of Dibrugarh. In this prestigious school we are entrusted with the great responsibility of educating the pupil for human and moral values and character formation. At present we have 2200 students from Nursery to Higher secondary level, with 85 teaching and 18 non - teaching staff. Now St. Xavier's School is one of the best educational institutions catering to the progress of the people of Duliajan.

Besides the ministry of education, we are involved in the parish ministry, faith formation, youth ministry and the spiritual accompaniment of the faithful. We also regularly pay visit to the families of our parish and of the teachers and students of our school. Our community was canonically established on 18th August 2018, Sr. Kochuthresia Myalil as the superior, Sr. Premlata Sawner and Sr. Suchita Lakra were the pioneering members.



In the beginning we were staying in the school building and on 8th June 2019 we moved to the new building built by the diocese of Dibrugarh.



At present we are five members in the Community. One part of the convent is used by the sisters and other part is used for girl's hostel. We have 59 tribal girls in the hostel doing their higher secondary education at St. Xavier's School. We consider it a privilege to be in this mission land imparting our services to the people of God, through the ministry of education in the school, managing the hostel for the tribal girls and involving in the pastoral ministry of the parish.

Sr. Kochuthresia John Myalil O.P.



2018 – It was the year; I received the call to go to the unknown land in the state of Assam. The place was Duliajan, the Oil town in the District of Dibrugarh, Assam.

My Mission at Duliajan

The Mission of our community was to collaborate in the mission of education in St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Duliajan, a famous school,



run by the Diocese of Dibrugarh. The School has been doing well with



good results in the public examinations over the years. There are students from various castes, cultures and tribes in the school, all united with a single purpose of growing to be good citizens in the future. We help the students both rich and poor alike, following the advice of our foundress Marie Poussepin who said "you show no less love to the poor than to rich." Apart from teaching the subject matters we have always tried to ingrain in our students a sense of purpose in their lives, discipline and sincerity in what-

ever they do. Being in the school gives us the opportunity to get to know people of all walks in this industrial town of Assam.

School ministry enables us to participate in the growth process of the students through academic, co-curricular and various different activities. It is an enriching experience to us as well as the students. Being with the teachers and the students gives us the sense of purpose and a direction to our apostolic fulfillment. We meet the parents of the Students, discuss with them better ways to make their wards do better in studies and in their character formation.

We are happy to have come to know the new culture, people and place and are joyfully serving this mission here at Duliajan.

Sr. Premlata Sawner OP.



Mission of study

Wisdom 9: 11 "For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her Glory."

I joined Duliajan Community on July 22nd 2019. Sisters welcomed me with sisterly love and care and I am happy in the community. I was sent here to do my degree course in Arts stream, in Duliajan collage which is a Government institution. The collage gives me an opportunity to mix with people of different castes, cultures and religious affiliation. At first it was difficult for me as it required to do many official works to get admitted in the collage, but thanks to the help received from many persons, I could face all the people and do all the official works.

My Experience in Duliajan College

When I started to go to the college it was very difficult for me to face the situation because all the students were asking so many questions and nobody was friendly with me, all were going their own. Even teachers were asking why I came in this dress. If I greeted good morning, they were not replying to me and they were speaking in Assamese how I got the admission and why principal allowed me to come to the college in the dress. Hearing all this I was finding uncomfortable to go to the collage. In my mind the questions were going on as to why I am here? Why I became sister? If I could have worn uniform, I could not feel lonely I could not have gone through all kinds of tensions.



It went like this for one year. After some time again one more issue arose that I had to wear the shoes, if I did not wear I was not allowed to enter the college. With the help of students union the problem was solved. I prayed to the Lord and asked grace to face it. I believed that only God is with me and by the grace of God now I am able to take it and God is taking care of me. I surrendered to him and accepted his will in the situation. After some time I was able to find some friends to talk with them ask help from them to send the study materials in my mail. And some teachers also helped me by sending the notes. I participate in the extra – curricular activities like different competitions and attend the programs in the college. In the beginning I was finding difficult to cope up

with study but now I am trying and am able to adjust. I have friends, they are from different religions they ask many questions about Christianity and about religious life. I got chance to speak about Jesus Christ and share about our way of life.

Sr. Anima Tirkey OP.

Parish Pastoral Ministry



Our parish is known as Duliajan town parish. It is situated in the campus of Oil India L t d Duliajan. We have 40 families in the parish, we render our service to all our parishioners by our visit to the families and those who are sick and elderly and by praying for them, we join with them in their celebrations and share their joy. We also take part in their moments of sorrow and sufferings and pray for their intentions.

We go to their families for rosary in month of October, carol singing in December and house blessings in the month of April. We take part in the parish activities like teaching catechism, parish programs like St Francis Xavier's feast, Easter and other programs held in the parish, we involve in preparing the Church for special occasions.

We have extended our mission to another parish called Vikasika, there we have two mission stations. One is Jutlibadi which is 6 kilometers from our parish and other one is Madhuban which is one and half kilometers distant from the convent.



There are two sisters

who go on Sundays and teach catechism and visit the families. We promote vocations for our Province while we are on our mission. This mission station is situated around the tea garden, people work in the garden. They are simple and enthusiastic to learn and are ready to welcome us and help us in our ministry.

Sr. Suchita Lakra

Hostel is a place of great learning

St. Xavier's girls and boys hostel Duliajan is run by Diocese of Dibrugarh. The Boys and Girls of these dioceses are privileged to be in this hostel. Only the higher secondary students who study in different streams like Commerce, Science and Arts are here. We, the Dominican sisters take care of the Girls hostel. At present we have 59 students in the hostel. All of them are Catholics coming from all over Assam mostly from tea gardens, very few are from villages and Cities. They belong to Adivasi tribe and culture.



With this short introductions let me share our life and mission in the hostel. It is said that hostel is a place of great learning. I believe that the students study and learn better for their academic performance in the hostel. Motivating the young girls is lovely, energetic, active and life giving mission, yet it is a risk taking and challenging task. Monitoring and disciplining is one of the important task where we make space for the students to learn. We

provide a quiet and pleasant atmosphere .We teach them to accommodate the differences of each other. Our Mother Foundress Marie Poussepin has told us “Deepening the knowledge of young needs some guidance, it is the one who guides, who is able to open the minds to the wisdom of God”. “With young girls we become energetic, enthusiastic and vibrant as we extend our constant care, support and love .In that way we help them to improve the quality of education, it doesn’t matter what medium they come from. All of us in this community are involved in educating the hostel girls to achieve their goals and dreams.

Other then their academic performance we focus on value of education. We help them to value their life. We encourage them for innovative studies by providing them the opportunity to participate in the motivational talks and seminars conducted by the dioceses. Sometimes career guidance courses are given to them. Especially we motivate and encourage the girls to discover hidden talents and gifts by giving them the opportunity to participate in various programs and activities that we conduct.

It is amazing to see such wonderful gifts and talents that they come up with, beautiful singing, dancing, drawing and artistic writing they have. Marie Poussepin’s main concern was to bring the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ for everyone who is placed under our care. Prayer is a channel of grace which produces virtue in us and nourishes our soul. We pray together the daily Rosary, sometimes we play games, crack jocks and laugh with them.

The feast days and birth days are celebrated with them; occasionally we conduct special prayer service .We also make known the spirit of Marie Poussepin, we talk to them about her life and about the congregation. We pray for them daily we expect from them to follow the rules and regulation of hostel and be disciplined, make use of time given. Our hope is that they should become good citizens and come up with good results that they can go ahead in their future.

Sr. Saroj Xalxo

Vocation Promotion

“Speak to God and Speak about God” Blessed Marie Poussepin who walked with God entered into an intimate relationship with God Knowing Him hearing his voice sharing the hearts desires with Him and seeking to please Him along. All of us are wanting and desiring to be with the Lord, yes it is a call to each one of us to be passionate and desire for Him. It is our very life which proclaims the charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin.

Today Jesus is calling to you and to me personally come follow me. He is calling to be with Him and to share his



love. One of the prime concerns to be here in this land of Assam is to get vocation, all of us are praying and working to have young girls from this place. Every occasion and opportunity is made use of, going to the different villages and parishes to recruit the young girls. Marie Poussepin our Mother Foundress is very much alive here in our hostel. We keep special intentions to recruit vocation. Hope against Hope even when we get disappointed but we never leave we are trying to see the seed of our Congregation. We visit the families occasionally and try to help the girls to discern their vocation. We share about our Charism and mission with hostel girls. We conduct especial prayer service, we also make known about our foundress Blessed Marie Poussepin and we speak to them about our life.

Sr. Saroj Xalxo

Hostel Life with Dominican Sisters

Life in the hostel is one of the most memorable experiences. Living in the hostel makes a student socially and behaviorally different. Staying in hostel makes a student smart, active and helps to live a regulated life.

I, myself, was in hostel for two years under the care of Dominican sisters. I have many sweet memories of the place. Words can't define completely those two years of my life that was spent in my hostel. I will cherish the memories forever. These are the following points that I have experienced –

Tearful first day and night at hostel.

Roommates from different streams.

Learn to manage expenses and money management.

Make friends for life.

Some occasions and events are celebrated with utmost excitement and pleasure.

Students become professor the day before exam.

Sleeping in same rooms with dozen people.

Start the day with prayers and holy mass.



Hostel life taught me many lessons, self dependence, self reliance and the most important lesson I learnt is adjustment and accommodating with others and a disciplined way of life. Thank you sisters for dedicating your lives to make our life brighter. "Hostel Life is the best life which changes our life style. We start the new life here. We make new friends. We enjoy the little things in our life. For one day we will look back. And realize they were, the best things ever happened in our life."

Hemprova Bagh Class XII (Science Stream)

Experience of my Hostel Life

Time in hostel according to my experience are the most beautiful and wonderful days of my life. During the stay in hostel, I learnt many good things in my life. I learn good manners, how to be disciplined and respectful to the elders. In hostel we learn the rules and regulations that help us to be punctual and to do our duties on time. Here we gain knowledge about many things. The hostel is the place where we learn about right and wrong. It is also the place where there are many students from different places or students with different talents, attitudes and behavior.

During the hostel life, we do many naughty deeds like talking in study hall, stealing things from garden and we are punished by the warden. Hostel life is very enjoyable days in our life. We have the time table for our works, studies, for



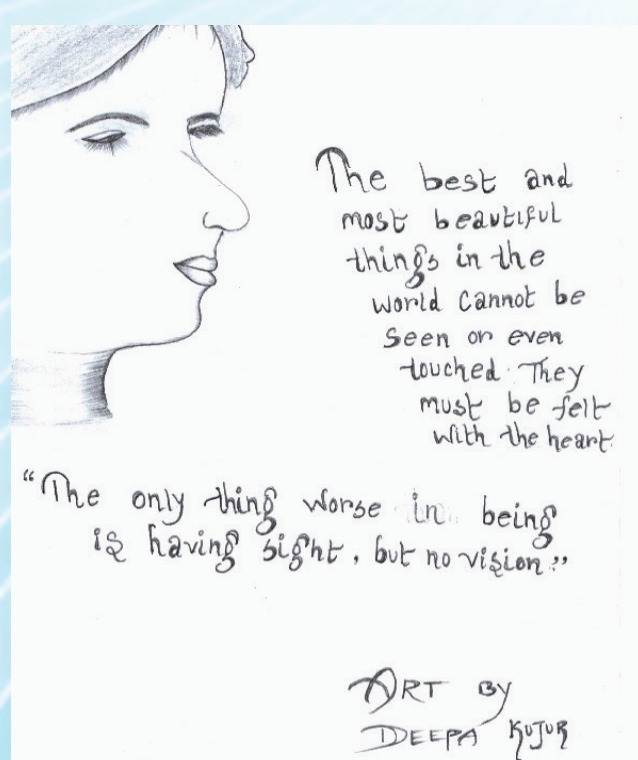
bath, when to wake up in the morning ,go for mass, get ready and go to school. While eating all eat together in the dining room. Some students may not learn many things in their home but during their stay in hostel they learn how to be tidy neat and clean, to wash clothes etc. We get opportunity to speak in front of others on different topics. Those who stay in hostel are the luckiest children or students because hostel life is the best life ever.

In hostel, sisters guide us and teach us to be good to others. They love and take care of us as their own children. They look after us. Even when they have their works to do, they help us and correct us. During some occasions programs are held to entertain us. Hostel makes our life very mannered, disciplined, sincere, respectful and knowledgeable and we learn many good things for life.

Rushma Toppo
Class – XI (Arts Stream)



Asha Rani Kujur



Deepa Kujur