

SPANDAN

A New Heaven and A New Earth

Province of St. Francis Xavier

India Centre

June 2024

Thank
you



Relaypassing the
torch of leadership.....!



Congratulations

Contents

1. Editorial

- *Leap into the unknown*

2. Word From the Provincial

- *The Leaning Tower of Pisa*

3. Word of God

- *My journey with the book of Exodus*
- *Women of the Word*
- *Embracing Hope: A New Heaven and Earth*
- *Encounter with Jesus*

4. Institute (knowing Magdalene)

- *....A Testament of Spiritual Kinship*
- *The Divine call*
- *Loving Jesus with the heart of Jesus*
- *Devotion to Mary*

5. New initiatives undertaken

- *Love is like a forest fire that sets ablaze everything*
- *250 Years Celebration*

6. My Dream

- *Vocation Facilitation*
- *Creativity in Socio Pastoral Ministry*
- *Dream for the better education ministry*
- *My Dream a Socio-Pastoral Ministry*
- *...And Why Not?*

- *On- going Formation*
- *Imparting love through Socio-Pastoral Ministry*
- *Manifesting God's compassion and mercy through Spiritual- Pastoral Ministry*

7. Exceptional Experiences

- *My Encounter with the Lord through the Canossians!*
- *Down MEMORY Lane*
- *My conviction of Jesus*
- *My grumbling to giggle: an unexpected bonding in Bilpudi*
- *Love one another as I have loved you.*
- *Ryshivana: A Journey of Transformation*
- *Called to be part of God's Kingdom*
- *Our enthusing and fruitful mission experience at Halkarni and Mangalwad.*
- *USM Leadership Training*
- *With Grateful Hearts*

8. Reminiscence

- *Talasari Mission*
- *The Seed that blossomed....*

9. On Lighter note

- *Read & enjoy!!!!!!*
- *Universal bank of Gods blessings*
- *Picture Puzzles*
- *Computer Riddles*



1. Editorial...Put on a New 'You'

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Cor 5:17

After the perspiring and scorching summer heat, the rain brings a sigh of relief and springs a new life around. After every night there is a new dawn. About 330 billion new cells replace the old ones in our body everyday, with every breath we breathe in, a fresh new air.

Today many of us are experiencing newness in our new communities or experiencing the uniqueness of the new members of our community. A new place, a new mandate and mission, new people to work with, a new routine, etc. Today our country too is breathing the air of hope in its new government, with its gaze fixed on justice, peace, equity, freedom.

Nothing remains just as it is, everything changes, everything becomes anew. Until the old dies, there cannot be anything new. You cannot be a "New You" until the "Old You" dies. Today is never yesterday and never will it be tomorrow.

Saint Paul says, that those who are in Christ are a new creation. The Word that is sent forth by God never returns unless it has fulfilled its purpose....unless it has changed and transformed our lives.

We are grateful to God for the 250 years of St. Magdalene's birth. It doubles our joy as Pope Francis has given the special

privilege of Plenary Indulgence to the Church on the occasion of her semi quinentennial year. It's a wonderful time to renew ourselves spiritually through the grace received.

We are all energized to begin once again with the new academic year 2024-25 with lots of plans, aspirations and new initiatives.

Each and every experience is unique and different, always bringing new insights and perspectives.

We are all a new creation each and every moment. There is no creation that remains the same. Let us then refresh our hearts and minds to adapt to the new, to think anew. Let us be charged and produce a new energy to bring forth something new.

If we are in Christ then let us be like the new wineskins allowing God to pour a new wine into us, let us shake off the dust of all that is old.

No one puts new wine into the old wineskins.....you know the outcome of it. As we embrace the new challenges let us put on the new self...with a new mindset and perspective. By leaving behind our old self and taking a leap of faith into the unknown, to find out what we are truly capable of becoming.

As each one gazes into the eyes of Jesus our Saviour and Lord, let us adopt his ways, his style, his pattern, his Word as we glance through the pages of Spandan, let us explore various insights in our physical realm about what it means to

experience a New Heaven and a New Earth in the light of the Scriptures, in the voice of Our Foundress, in the life and mission of our Community and in the life of every sister bearing testimony and witness to Christ.

May we open our hearts to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

God be the glory now and forever!

From the Spandan Team



2. Word from the Provincial...



The Leaning Tower of Pisa

The Leaning Tower of Pisa, in Pisa, Italy, is known to many people around the world because of its name, a tower that leans. A quick Google search finds the following information about the tower. *The tower is situated behind the Pisa Cathedral and is the third-oldest structure in the Cathedral Square (Piazza del Duomo), after the cathedral and the Pisa Baptistry.* The site is an amazing sight to see in person.



It is a medieval structure that is famous for the settling of its foundations, which by the late 20th century had caused it to lean about 15 feet (4.5 metres) from the perpendicular.

As the Tower of Pisa was meant to be a bell tower for the Cathedral Square, it doesn't have much inside the tower apart from the stairs that lead up to the bells at the top of the tower. The tower is dark with minimal light that comes through its windows on the upper stories.

When one sees it, as in other cases, one tends to incline one's head to see it straight or one may try to figure out how it can be 'made' straight! This is because the first glance of any human (more of a perfectionist) rests on mistakes. What do I look out for in life? Negatives? Mistakes? Possibilities? Hope filled newness?

Perhaps some may think that there was something wrong with the original intent of the tall Bell Tower.

Managing our expectations is critical in our everyday lives. Managing our expectations is speaking calmly to ourselves when we lean into our flaws in our personal and spiritual lives. Another way to manage our expectations is training our minds. For example, when we refer to physical training, there are levels or phases that we must train in order to build endurance. We need to train our minds to see stepping stones in ‘mistakes’ too.

Let’s qualify our sight, our hearing, our emotions by training our minds well. Let our failings and those of others teach us that even though we may find ourselves ‘leaning’ or balancing on the edges of life, we can still be a ‘wonder’ in God’s plan! Perhaps we can ponder the areas and ways to train our mind to succeed. As we reflect on the Leaning Tower of Pisa, we too can be successful with our flaws.

We can train our mind with kind words, meditate on the goodness of others, dwell on positive experiences, and read the Good News to inspire and encourage ourselves. When we lean into our flaws, we can turn around and help someone else on his or her journey.

Instead of seeing in the leaning tower of ourselves a flaw, let us claim the ‘wonder’ of our God living in us! A God who has made each of us a ‘leaning’ wonder of creation!

With all of my flaws, **a new heaven and a new earth is possible**. The possibility is for me and all around me!

Sr. Audrey D’souza
Province Leader

3. Word of God...



My journey with the book of Exodus

The Ministry of the Word (MOW) is a course conducted at the Bombay seminary for Lay people. It comprises theory for two years, studying the Old and New Testaments, followed by a six-month probation period. In a bid to grow spiritually, I attempted it in 2015. The journey was tough and challenging, yet fruitful.

I completed my MOW classes in the year 2017, but due to my transfer, I could not complete my probation period. In fact I was happy that I didn't have to take the classes! But when I came back to Mahim, one of my companions said, "Since you are back, why don't you complete MOW? It is a beautiful experience of grace." Hearing this I felt maybe it is a call from God, so I said to myself, "Nainita, no running away, complete it!" So, I joined after a four- year gap, on 4th Dec. 2022. The books were allotted to us by lots and I got the book of "**Exodus**". I was very happy, but the challenge was the strict "professor" to whom I had to submit my dossier for correction and approval. Anyway I took up the challenge. For a week I was cool and busy completing my accounts, till I received a whatsapp message from the professor, asking for a number of things to be followed. Reading the message, my first reaction was fear: "Not Possible! time is too short!" However I made up my mind to run the race till the end.

So I began the race, with office work in one hand, and the Bible in the other! I managed to complete my first lesson on time with

the footnote – acknowledging that the material was taken from the class notes by Frs. Jude, Walter, and others, and forwarded it for correction. Immediately I got a reply saying “your footnotes are not correct, Frs. Jude and Walter have taken from somewhere so give me the proper source”. Now where do I get the proper source? So I began to search on the internet, library books, commentaries, Bibles, dictionary, online books etc. But the time was too short to finish both office work and lesson submission. At this point of time I literally felt as if ***I was going through a sugarcane- juice machine***..... crushed and I could see only the fibrous waste of the sugarcane. I was in two minds: “Give up... don’t give up.”

I did not know how to proceed! As I was thinking of quitting, suddenly I received a call from a lady from the parish saying, Sister! Do you need any books? I said yes, please! The very next day she came with two books. And to my surprise, I found most of the material in these two books. Once again I was extremely happy and felt that God wanted me to complete it. In another 15 days, I submitted my second lesson and it came back **fully highlighted** saying “**Re-Do**”. I was devastated! According to the professor’s time limit, I was able to submit three lessons on time, but he refused to correct the 3rd lesson till the first one was approved. Simultaneously I was receiving corrections after corrections of my first lesson. Each time I forwarded saying “this is the last time! I won’t make any more corrections”, but somehow I went on correcting till the month of May and finally on 15th May I got my 1st lesson approved!!! Thirty- first May 2023 was supposed to be the last day to get all the 6 lessons approved and I had just completed one!

There were five more to be completed....five more.....!!! it was something impossible. I felt like giving up. As I was thinking..... unexpectedly I received a call from the leader of our group. She said “Sister, where have you reached? Please do not give up, even if you are late. Please complete it, you have joined after 4 years, that means God wants you to complete it. I am praying for you.” After ten days again she called me and said the same thing **“Don’t give up”**. This was a great push and encouragement for me, and I said “Yes” I shall complete it. So, once again I started preparing the dossier and within a month, by the 1st week of July all my lessons were approved!!!

During this long Journey – I was discouraged several times; I grumbled and questioned why do only a few of us struggle? But now when I look back I feel happy and grateful to God and to Fr. Walter who, inspite of his busy schedule, patiently corrected all my lessons; not just the matter but even the space, font, spellings, alignment, footnote and bibliography. Hats off to him!

I am also grateful to all who supported me with their prayers and encouraging words.

Finally, I was commissioned in St. Michael Parish Mahim on 28th January 2024.

I thank and praise God for parting the Red Sea for me, striking the rock to let quenching waters flow, sending manna....oh yes,..Moses came alive for me! And now my heart reverberates with the song of Miriam!..Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!

Sr. Nainita Kankad

Sacred Heart Canossian Convent, Mahim.

➤ **Women of the Word**

Our XVII General Chapter theme calls us to bewomen of the Word. The Word of God has inspired many prophets and saints including our foundress St. Magdalene. It has also been a source of inspiration to the great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi who based his life on the beatitudes, even the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore was inspired to write many Christian hymns. The Word has touched and transformed many lives. Indeed the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword.

Yes, I see the power of the Word of God in my life, as the Psalmist king David says ‘Thy word is a lamp for my feet and a light unto my path’. The Word of God inspires me and helps me look beyond and broaden my horizons. The Word strengthens me in my mission, it brings newness into my life. The Word helps me to accept the challenges.

My daily reading and reflection on the Word of God fills me with new energy, it helps me in my decision making and also in building healthy and positive relationship with others.



I am also inspired to reach out to those in need. The more I am open to the Spirit deeper the insights I receive on reading the Word of God. When the seed (the Word of God) falls on the fertile soil of our heart it indeed bears fruit, spiritual fruits in abundance. 'The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever., (Is. 40:8)

Sr. Pauline Sequeira
St. Xavier Canossa, Dhule



➤ **"Embracing Hope: A New Heaven and Earth**

Revelation 21-1: 'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea

In the heart of every believer lies a vision of a world renewed—a new heaven and a new earth, brought forth by the power of God's word. This vision, rooted in faith and promise, offers a beacon of hope to a world often marked by turmoil and uncertainty.

At its core, the idea of a new heaven and new earth envisions the transformative nature of God's word. St. John 1:1 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God'. The word became flesh in Jesus Christ. This faith invites believers to partake in a future where peace, justice, and harmony prevail. It inspires us to look beyond the challenges of the present and envision a world where love reigns supreme.

This journey towards a new heaven and new earth begins within each individual heart. It implies knowing the word and making it alive through our actions. As we open ourselves to the wisdom and guidance found in the Holy Bible, we are transformed from within, becoming vessels of God's love and grace. This transformation empowers us to live lives of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation, paving the way for a more harmonious world. Moreover, the vision of a new heaven and earth calls us to action.

St. Mathew 25:40 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

This word of God calls us to address the pressing issues of our time—poverty, inequality, environmental degradation—with grace, faith, courage and conviction. We participate in the unfolding of God's plan for creation of a new heaven and earth which transcends barriers of race, religion, and nationality, embracing all humanity as beloved children of God.

In a world often divided by fear and mistrust, the word of God reminds us of our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of all life.

St. Luke 6:35 /36 'But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful'.

As we journey towards the realization of a new heaven and earth, let us hold fast to the promise of God's word. Let us be beacons of hope in a world in need of light, shining forth with love, compassion, and grace. And may our collective efforts bring us ever closer to the fulfillment of God's kingdom on earth.

Tr. Fiona Nazareth
High School Teacher
Canossa Mahim



➤ **Encounter with Jesus**

The first element of the encounter with Jesus, the Truth and Love compels you, transforms you..... it is a realization that Jesus is God. Peter will say after that great catch “Depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man”

The second element we realize”I am a sinner and I am unworthy.....“leads to repentance – is a call to turn from my own sinful way of life and to turn towards Jesus.

The third element of an encounter with the Lord is that I am infinitely loved and it happens at the same moment that I realize I am a sinner. These two elements always go together

The fourth thing that happens, I desire to follow Jesus and at the same time I realize that I am being invited into a new way of life.

This is essential because an encounter with Jesus means that I start trying to be a disciple. It doesn’t mean I have to be perfect but I can’t sit still.

These four steps are at the heart of an encounter with Jesus.

Have I met Jesus? Do I encounter Him at every Eucharist?

Do I encounter the True Presence of Jesus and the transforming Power of the Eucharist?

As Pope Leo was reaching the end of his life he said that even though there were many problems in the world and many things he could focus on, he wanted to focus on the Eucharist. He believed that if the Church was strengthened in her relationship with the Eucharist then she'd be able to stand against the struggles that were coming. He knew then that we needed to strengthen our love and our devotion for the Eucharist and our relationship with Jesus – that Encounter with HIM.

We need that today as well, in order to face the struggles of our culture with strength and holiness. May we all come to a deeper understanding and reverence of God's precious gift of the Eucharist.

An essential element of the Eucharistic Revival which is also an essential element of our faith, revolves around the word "encounter".

It's important that each of us have an encounter with Jesus. When we do, we experience a real change in our lives, and it gives us the strength and power to follow the Lord.

Pope Benedict XVI's words which Pope Francis also repeats take us to the very heart of the Gospel "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter

with an event, a person, who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction”. (God is Love)

When I encounter Jesus, my whole life opens up in a new way, and suddenly, I have a different way of seeing and I’m headed in a new direction, toward a new horizon.

In fact we are called to an encounter with the living God everyday –it’s a part of what it means to be a Christian.



So let’s look at the encounters Jesus had with people in Scripture.

Let us see what happened to them and how it can happen to us – through the Eucharist.

Jn. Ch.1 – John’s first encounter with Jesus. He and Andrew (brother of Simon Peter). They were disciples of John the Baptist.

One day Jesus walks by and John points to him and says, “Behold the Lamb of God”

They become very interested in who Jesus is and they begin to follow Him. Then Jesus turns around and says “What are you looking for?” They ask Him “Rabbi where are you staying? And He replies, “Come and see”. They stay with him and John adds, “It was four in the afternoon” Jn. 1:39

St. John would always remember the moment when his life changed. Andrew runs to his brother Peter and says “We have found the Messiah. Their encounter with Jesus must have been truly compelling.....

How are our encounters with Jesus ?

Sr. Clemy Mascarenhas
Nirmalashram





4. Institute: Knowing Magdalene...

"The Enduring Friendship of St. Magdalene of Canossa and Countess Carolina Durini: A Testament to Spiritual Kinship"

Throughout history, the synergy of spiritual kinship among revered figures has fostered remarkable growth in both individuals and their collective mission of serving the marginalized. As we celebrate the 250th Birth Anniversary of St. Magdalene of Canossa, our Foundress, it's appropriate to highlight the vital role played by her most faithful friend, Countess Carolina Durini, in both the life and work of St. Magdalene.

Carolina, hailing from the nobility of Milan, was a Lady of the Cross deeply devoted to works of mercy. Magdalene's encounter with Durini at the Hospital of Mercy in Verona, alongside her husband, took place at the crucial period in Magdalene's life. Her spiritual Director Don Luigi Libera had died most unexpectedly and Magdalene had just discovered that God wanted her to do something different. "My dear Carolina, I seem to see prospects that God wants something done," Magdalene expressed, igniting a journey of profound significance.

The letters exchanged between Magdalene and Durini offer a treasure trove of insight into Magdalene's thoughts, struggles, and the genesis of her work. Thanks to Durini's love and devotion in preserving these letters, we now possess a collection of 350 letters spanning three decades. An attentive reading of these letters illuminates Magdalene's multifaceted spiritual evolution, from uncertainty to steadfast confidence in her mission. Moreover, they provide valuable insight into the

development of the Institute, chronicling its aspirations, obstacles, hopes, disappointments, and unexpected realizations.

In her commentary on MEMOIRS, Mother Elda Pollonara FdCC draws heavily upon these letters to substantiate Magdalene's experiences. The friendship between St. Magdalene of Canossa and Countess Carolina serves as a poignant reminder of the indispensable role of support and companionship within religious communities. Rooted in shared spirituality and a commitment to serving others, their bond exemplifies how profound relationships can foster transformative growth and impact. Furthermore, the friendship between Magdalene and Carolina underscores the holistic nature of spiritual life. Their relationship transcended mere prayer and contemplation, illustrating how spiritual growth and compassionate action are intertwined.

In today's religious circles, where individuals are consumed by various responsibilities and challenges, communication has dwindled and genuine connections are rare. The prevalence of loneliness, particularly among the elderly, underscores the need for valuing each person and fostering a supportive community. Building meaningful relationships based on shared values and goals empowers individuals on their spiritual journey. The legacy of St. Magdalene of Canossa and Countess Carolina Durini exemplifies the transformative impact of supportive relationships among those dedicated to spiritual growth and service to others.

Sr. Maggie Mathew
Canossa Annexe, Mahim

➤ **The Divine call**

While in her teens, Magdalene fell very ill. Then, once she recovered, she felt more strongly and clearly than ever before, the divine call.

Magdalene herself related that she had felt the invitation to give herself to Christ, and that she desired no other than him. In the solitude of her illness, her thoughts often went to the many sick who were without help and comfort. When she was ill-treated by her governess, her great sensitivity helped her understand the sad tragedy of many young people without love or help, and of many young girls without guidance.

The love of God, of silence and prayer, urged her to join the cloistered Carmel, but at the same time she felt very strongly, as she herself put it, ‘the inclination of charity towards the poor, the sick, the orphans, those who were without love.’ As the months went by, the call to monastic life attracted her, but the inner distress, “who will help the many poor people who each day flock the entrance of Canossa Palace?” kept challenging her. It is true that in the convent, being able to converse more with God, she would have prayed for them too, but, she felt persuaded, they also needed her bread, clothing, help, and her smile to help them go ahead.

She felt that the cloister would have clipped the wings of her initiatives of charity. For this reason she was so hesitant to say anything at home.

However, one day, with a glimmer of joy in her eyes, she stated resolutely that she had chosen for herself the most beautiful, wealthy and good man in the world as her spouse: Jesus Christ. Those sitting around the table felt their hearts torn apart! They

loved her too much. They were too fond of her. They were trying to prevent her from taking this step. They soon realized that the battle was lost. They were aware that her resolution was not just a passing one; it was her response, both courageous and generous, to the mysterious invitation of a greater love. She had matured in her trial; she had passed through the crucible of suffering. She was now ready to overcome any difficulty. Being alongside her Lord in the hour of sorrow had made her feel very strong. She could now face any power on earth with her decision. Thus, she answered the Divine Call.

Here, at the novitiate, I learn to appreciate Magdalene's attuning to public need, and to answer it from within so that I also grow in virtue, thus achieving the full scope of the Institute, that is, to produce in myself the image and likeness of Jesus Crucified, most gentle, most patient, most kind...

Alphonsa Kdaiska
1st year Novice



➤ **Loving Jesus with the heart of Jesus**
(Mem. P. 468)

The most real moment of intimacy with God is the moment of Holy Communion. Christ is really present, body, blood, soul and divinity in the person who receives Him. Magdalene lives these privileged moments with special intensity and with the vigilant love of a spouse. She says that it is not the experience of the embrace of a love, or it is not even the desire of the spouse of the Song Of Songs anymore: "Set me as seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is stronger than death" (Song of Songs 8:6), but *it is the experience of the spouse who lives within her!*

Her life of prayer was nourished by this food and gradually she started experiencing intimate love and union with Jesus after communion. An interior inspiration prompts her to love God with the heart of Jesus Himself. She is a person dispossessed of everything incapable even of using herself because she belongs no more to herself but totally to her God. Jesus Christ, the divine spouse of her soul has taken possession not only of all that she is and has, but through the power of His spirit, He has transformed her into Himself. “Now you are the body of Christ” 1 Cor.12:27. ***Magdalene has no longer her own heart but must use the very heart of Christ to love!*** The ecstasy of love is the most genuine and deep communion of her soul with her God.

On another occasion she writes: “When I received Holy Communion, there was ***a deep feeling of trust in me. I understood that our Lord was giving Himself entirely to me in the Eucharist.*** It is obvious that I too must make a total gift of myself to Him”. Loving Jesus with the heart of Jesus is to offer ourselves to God, allowing His divine and omnipotent love to unite us truly and efficaciously to the Father and participate in the mystery of the Trinitarian life.

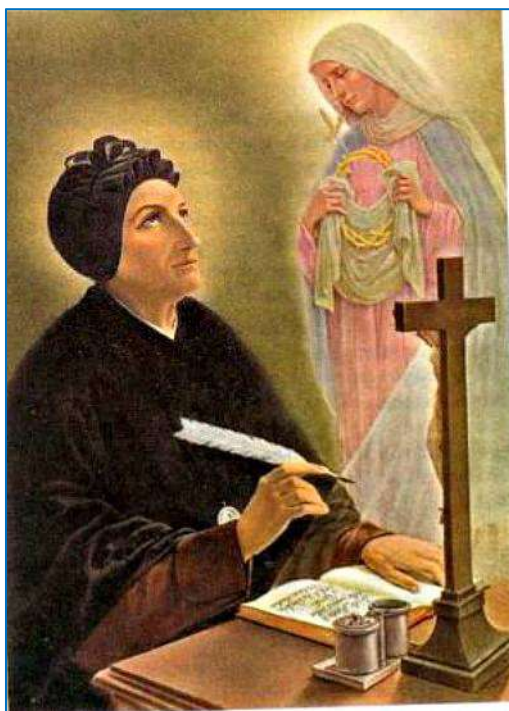
What is important is to liberate ourselves from self and let ourselves be loved by God-love. The world, as I see it, is thirsting for Love. To pour it out on the world, God needs channels that are free, clean, and perfectly linked to Him. My daily endeavour in the Novitiate is to let God mould me into such a channel: free, clean and perfectly linked to Him so that He can love the world as He wants, with His Heart in mine.

**Abeni Sabar,
2nd year Novice.**

➤ Devotion to Mary

“Let us put our trust in the heart of Mary, and we will find peace.” -St. Magdalene of Canossa

St. Magdalene had great love and devotion towards Mother Mary right from her childhood. The first manifestation of Magdalene’s devotion to Mary would date back to 1781, to the time of the marriage of her mother, Maria Teresa Szluha to Marquis Zenetti of Mantua. Abandoned by her mother, and staggering under the oppressive attitude of the governess, Magdalene, then seven years of age, had entrusted herself to our Lady as to a mother. She accepted her as her own mother.



Magdalene's Director, Don Libera, encouraged her in her devotion to Our Lady saying, "My dear, daughter towards this great Mother, nourish sentiments of gratitude and devotion in your heart."

Her great love and devotion to Our Lady, due to the care and support she constantly experienced from her, made her to say that Our Lady is the foundress of the congregation of the Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor. No one can ignore that Magdalene of Canossa declared that if any of her Daughters of Charity did not have a true devotion to Mary, 'I would make a rule as an exception to all the rules, that they will not

be held as Daughters of Charity.' Why was she so strong about the devotion to Mary? As we read the story of her struggle to establish the Institute, we realize that Magdalene encountered many difficulties. To surmount them, she always resorted to prayer to Our Lady her "cara Madonna".

Don Libera too endorsed her devotion saying, "You wish to enjoy the consolation of seeing with your own eyes the wonders the Blessed Virgin Mary is working. Well my daughter if it pleased God it may be so. But do continue trusting in Mary and she will console you at the right time."

So, learning from our foundress, let us put our trust in Mary and her Son Jesus and they will console us at all times.

Asha Lakra
2nd year Novice.

Kindly note: Articles of the other novices will be continued in successive issues of the Spandan
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5. New Initiatives undertaken



“Love is like a forest fire that sets ablaze everything”

St. Magdalene of Canossa, Shining bright,
Guiding souls through the darkest night,
Her legacy lives on, her spirit is strong,
In the rap of her story, we all belong...

The community of Galgibaga had the privilege of spreading the joy of our Mother Foundress on her 250th Birth Anniversary with our parishioners, catechism children, youth and students of the school through the various activities that we conducted to honor our Foundress. We as a community never lost a single opportunity to say “yes” in order to make Jesus and our Mother Foundress known. We acted according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and accepted the invitation for vocation promotion in different Diocesan schools in Goa. Sr. Joana being a part of DOVP (Diocesan office of Vocation Promotion) had a chance to help the students to know and understand their inner call along with Sr. Mamta. We too had a chance to encourage the girls on different occasions like Come and See Programme.

It’s all about Birth Anniversary of our Foundress...

It’s all about her recurring call...

It’s all about love for Christ Crucified...

It's all about humble acts of love...

we proclaimed the life of Our Mother Foundress and made Jesus known and loved to children of about 4 to 5 schools as well as college students. Although the DOPV had provided in detail the material for the reflection during vocation promotion sessions, we never missed the chance to add something more about our Mother Foundress. Every session we conducted brought us unique experiences specially in knowing more about our foundress. The various questions asked by the young students about our congregation challenged us to learn more about St. Magdalene. The passion, zeal, enthusiasm and the Fire of Our Foundress encourages us to 'Give More and Do More' for the Greater Glory of God.

In Canossa, she made her mark,

With a heart so pure, she lit up the dark.

Compassion in her eyes, love in every gesture,

She was a living legend, no one could measure.

The sessions and activities highlighted the thought-provoking message: "Finding and pursuing your vocation is like embarking on a journey to discover your true calling. It's about aligning your skills, passions and values with a meaningful path that not only fulfills you but also contributes positively to the

world around you. Think of it as uncovering the unique puzzle piece that fits perfectly into the grand mosaic of your life. So, dare to explore, and embrace your passions, and let your vocation be the guiding light, illuminating your path to personal and professional fulfillment.”



Her faith was unshakeable, her resolve unbreakable,
In the face of adversity, she remained unshakable.
St. Magdalene of Canossa, a force to be reckoned,
Her rap's like a sermon, her message beckon.
This was the message we could give to young hearts through a
song and Power Point presentation on the life of St. Magdalene.
We will continue to 'SET LIFE ON FIRE' with our feet on the
move.

So let's raise our voices, let's sing her praise,
St. Magdalene's legacy, it never fades.
In the rhythm of her life, in the rhyme of her grace,

She's the saint of Canossa, in every place.
May St. Magdalene help us to live and hand over her Charism
and Spirit entirely to the younger generation.

Canossa Convent
Galgibaga



➤ **250 Years Celebration**

On the occasion of 250th Anniversary of the birth of St. Magdalene of Canossa, with great joy and gratitude to God for this great privilege of honouring St. Magdalene of Canossa this Year 2024, we the community of Halkarni extended our services through programmes to the less fortunate in our Community.

On 11th March 2024, St. Anthony's English Medium School – Halkarni took up a new initiative in organizing and interacting with the children of the migrant families. These children are from the families of sugarcane cutters. It is a hard reality to see that these children are deprived of school because their families have to earn their daily wages moving from one village (state) to another. We were fortunate to be of help to them. That was a most memorable day for the staff and students of St. Anthony's School at Vaitakwad. In all there were 15 children along with their Parents.

The staff & students of Std. V and VII conducted creative games for these children. It was a heart touching moment for all our teachers and students. This experience will always remain in their hearts forever.



On 8th May 2024, We invited the Parishioners, of Halkarni Parish for a brief prayer service and announced the privilege recognized by the Church in honour of our Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa.

We expressed through prayer that God's omnipotent graces will be bestowed on them.

In all 10 families represented this grace filled moment. The occasion marked firstly with the prayer service in honour of St. Magdalene of Canossa followed by the animation on the life & struggles of St. Magdalene and her great works with a power point presentation.

All those present experienced St. Magdalene power and grace. It was a grace filled moment for the sisters of the community and the parishners.

On 9th May 2024, The Youngsters of Halkarni parish were invited for Prayer cum animation of knowing themselves better. It was an interactive session with the topic on Self- Esteem. It was an interesting session with the power point presentation. This created an awareness amongst the Youngsters on their crucial role in the Church and in their own parishes.

Sr. Jacinta Pinto

Maria Niwas, Halkarni



This May, there is great hope of **NEWNESS** in the air!

With nature, newness is a cyclic phenomenon that is unstoppable and ordained by the Creator. It happens whether desired or undesired, in its own time and season, producing its

own effects according to the order ingrained in it by The Creator!

The season of mangoes is here!...the season of cashews and love-apples and ice-apples and jack-fruits and melons of all kinds! The season of the Gulmohur/Mayflower colouring the season RED! And flowers like jasmines and mogras and Queen of the night...treats for the olefactory nerves! And fish...specially the Bombay Duck for us here! All lending charm to the wonderful holiday season, moment for getting away from routine, and getting refreshed! The Lord of the Sabbath ordains REST and RENEWAL for His People, His children: ***“Behold, I make all things new!”***

However, the kind of newness we hope for this May, is not just natural and normal or automatic! The newness we await this May, has the tone of the Israelites who waited with special eagerness more than two thousand years ago, for the fulfillment of a divine promise. There was great expectation of the coming of The Messiah who would change their living conditions and lead them on to their destiny. Israel could do nothing to hasten the process or make it adhere to their desires and demands. They had only to wait for it to happen while smoothening the way : ***“Prepare the way for the Lord!”*** Israel hoped for good governance, and they had visions and ideas about the new kingdom foretold by their prophets...of mountains flowing with milk and honey, of bread in plenty!... The **NEW KINGDOM** did come...perceptible only to ***those who had eyes to see and ears to hear!*** Yes, perception, patience and perseverance gave the key to the Kingdom...***the New Heaven and the New Earth!***

Indeed this May, we experience ***the groan of Creation*** as we labour through the process of birthing a new government! Creating awareness of the ills that have befallen us, and oppress us unabated, evoking the desire for change, seeking ways to bring about that change, galvanizing support, setting up

strategies and in this final stage, getting ready to push hard with all our might through the process of voting. But our true might consists in more: prayer to our God who favours the downtrodden and humble ones. Our hope is in Him!

May the fruit we enjoy this month of May be the fruit of the tree of Maturity watered with tears! May the fruit we enjoy wipe away all tears and bring us to pure Joy!

Does it seem too much to hope for? The dry craggly mango branch before me, putting out tender new shoots, dispels all doubts and bids me hope for newness beyond all understanding! God still loves the world...and you and I are in it...we are part of the world God loves!

So, Yes, I dare to hope...and WHY NOT????!!

Sr. Berlinda D'Cruz
Canossa Niketan



Sr. Olive: ● **Sr. Sarika, we see that our Sisters are quite absorbed in the Socio pastoral ministry. What creativity do you suggest to help our people who are still suffering in all spheres of life?**

Sr. Sarika
Manbhat St. Magdalene's vision was to be filled with missionary spirit, she often said that she was prepared to go to the ends of the earth and do anything so that Jesus would be known and loved. St. Magdalene catered to the people of her time who were spiritually and materially poor. This dream of St. Magdalene was attempted to be fulfilled through her daughters who set out of Italy to different parts of the world to make Jesus known and loved.

We need to continue having regular training and updating of all those engaged in this ministry. Instead of putting our stress on formal prayers and theories we need to inculcate the values of the gospel to our inmates and girls in our Hostels and all the people with whom we deal. Practical values of the Gospel such as forgiveness, love of the neighbor, justice for all, and respect for the dignity of persons must be caught by our behaviour rather than just taught.

In our dealings with women and children of our hostels, more emphasis should be given to JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation). This could be done by being more compassionate and by empowering the women.

Today in our works of charity, we need to express concretely God's Love by paying attention to the formation of the hearts.

- We need to pay heed to the cry of the young by preparing them for a dignified life and a meaningful future.

- We need to walk with them, paying attention to the formation of their hearts, which will result in the integral formation of the person.

- We need to raise awareness among the young about the harmful effects of Social media and substance abuse.

- We need to respond to the pressing issues of the time by organizing relevant programs in collaboration with the Diocese, NGOS, local bodies, and other institutions.

- We need to pay attention to the cry of the poor, victims of human trafficking, disadvantaged migrants, vulnerable elderly people and also the materially and spiritually poor.

- Sisters involved in Socio pastoral ministry need to have some background in Counseling so that they may be able to guide the youngsters and adolescents on the right path which is a need of the hour.

I envision seeing an inclusiveness of various congregations and lay faithful in the works of charity, enveloping a larger connection in various ministries that entails love, and attention.

Zaroli Community



Sr. Olive: ● **What is your dream for a better education ministry?**

Sr. Monica
Cardozo My dream for a better Education Ministry is to see 'INCLUSIVE EDUCATION' become a reality to Canossian Educators. In reality we follow the Canossian pedagogy of *Prevention of Sin and Salvation of Souls*, that will make us different from others. As St. Magdalene of Canossa urges all the educators to follow the policy "Heart of Education is the Education of the Heart."

Canossa Convent, Dhule

Sr. Olive: ● **In what way could we Canossians bring God's style of compassion, mercy and closeness through our spiritual-pastoral ministry?**

Sr. Maggie
Martis We Canossians could bring God's style of compassion, mercy and closeness by our spirit filled energy that we have stored through our prayer life which helps us to live our consecration and to face challenges that come our way so as to give our life

fully and selflessly for the mission specially through family Apostolate and Pastoral Ministry.

We need to have love as the basis of our thoughts, words and actions. When we are filled with the love of God we will only want the good of others, and selflessly reach out to them in their need. We need to visit people right where they are, making them feel safe and comfortable in our company. We need to understand their problems, listen to what they say and moreover listen to their unspoken words.

A kind heart and patient listening are so important even if we can't help them or solve their problems. They must feel that we share in their struggles and we are with them in their difficult moments. Only a compassionate heart will experience the plight of suffering humanity.

Sr. Maggie Martis

Sr. Olive: ● **Sr. Bharti what is your Dream for Socio-Pastoral Ministry?**

Sr. Bharati
Macwan: My dream for the socio-pastoral ministry is to be a person with deep spirituality and commitment to love God and humanity. As our Foundress says to love the poorest and the least. Our work should be that of empowering the people and to be ready to face the challenges of the society.

Today's world with globalization is becoming smaller and smaller so it also offers us lots of opportunities to empower People.

I dream of a world where the poor have a face and that the socio-pastoral ministry becomes relevant today. My dream is that our hearts and minds may be focused on contribution, commitment and passion for the kingdom of God.

Bilpudi Community



Sr. Olive: ● **Sr. Gracy how could you live newness as a Canossian in the Socio- Pastoral Ministry ?**

Sr. Gracie Fernandes As Canossian daughters of Charity we are called to make Jesus known and loved. Our preferential option for the poor is to make Jesus known and loved.

ROL Art 53, “Our commitment to them urges us to work for justice, peace and integrity of creation. For it is the poor, who are most affected by the absence of these human values. Hence in order to work for the poor, we need to have within us that same spirit that was in Jesus as St. Magdalene has given us, “spirit of charity, gentleness, meekness and humility, spirit of zeal and fortitude, most amiable, most generous and most patient spirit.

We as Canossians need to be persons with a BIG HEART – (able to love every person whoever he/ she is and whatever category they belong to) and have an open mind, to be able to understand the needs of the poor even before they can tell us, sisters who are able to listen to what they want to communicate to us and to be able to communicate to them the Gospel values.

More, through our simple lifestyle and our humble attitudes, they need to see us as persons of God, persons who will stand by them in their moments of sufferings and pain.

Snehasadan, Borivali



Sr. Olive: ● **Sr. Dolly could you give us some points to make our on-going formation produce lasting fruits?**

Sr. Dolly Rodrigues 1. Set as Your Top Priority: Indeed, taking ownership of your ongoing formation is crucial. By making it your top priority, you're committing yourself to continuous growth and improvement. This involves self-assessment to identify both your strengths and areas that require development. Setting clear goals and dedicating time and effort to achieve them will propel you forward on your journey of formation.

2. Have a Mature Mentor: Having a wise and experienced mentor by your side can significantly enhance your development. A mature mentor can provide valuable guidance, support and perspective, helping you to navigate challenges and capitalize on opportunities. Regular evaluations with your mentor, allowing for feedback and reflection, foster continuous learning and improvement.

3. Hours before the Blessed Sacrament: Cultivating the habit of spending time before the Blessed Sacrament is spiritually enriching and transformative, allowing you to listen to the voice of God and find solace and strength in His presence. In

moments of pruning or difficulty, the grace received from this time spent in prayer can provide comfort and clarity, making your journey of formation not only fruitful but also spiritually fulfilling.

By integrating these three essential points into our ongoing formation, we are laying a solid foundation for personal and spiritual growth. Let us keep nurturing our commitment to self-improvement, seeking guidance from mentors, and deepening our spiritual life, and we will continue to flourish on our journey of formation.

Nirmalamata, Manickpur



Sr. Olive: Sr. Faustine, you are much involved in Vocation facilitation, could you give us some ideas about it?

Sr. Faustina Mascarenhas Vocation Facilitation is the need of the hour. Today in this digital world, the youngsters are with mobile in their hands, having a lot of knowledge and information. They know how to use it well and also get lost in their own world. They are so preoccupied with so many things that they have very little time to listen to the inner voice of GOD.

Vocation facilitation gives youngsters opportunity to meet others, solve their queries and clarify their doubts, and those who are still discerning God's call in their life get the opportunity to search for God's will and grow in self-confidence. Vocation camps can help the youngsters to be focused in their motivation to follow Christ more closely. Like-minded people exchange their views and make their discernment.

Therefore, vocation facilitation is the need of the hour today, to facilitate, to guide and accompany the young person in making their proper choice in life. God wants us to be happy in life hence it is important to seek guidance and help.

Vocation facilitation is the duty and responsibility of every Canossian, and it should become a priority to take the youth closer to God.

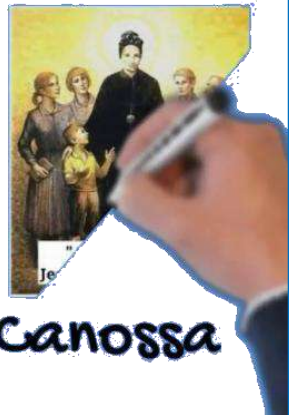
To give them opportunity to spend time for self and to get in touch with their inner self and to create awareness in them. Who am I? Where am I going? What is the purpose of my life? Jesus has said in the Gospel "The harvest is great and the labourers are few, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers in His vineyard".

Finally, we need vocation facilitation to strengthen our own call and give joyful witness to others by our life of joyful living. We need to spend quality time with them, visit the youth and their families, motivate their parents and also request the parents to speak good about the priests and nuns in their homes and their conversations. Families also must pray the daily rosary for

vocations. Vocation is a gratuitous gift of God to every person. How I live it and witness to it is up to me.

Shirlaiwadi

Those who love
are never tired
since love knows
no burdens
St Magdalene of Canossa



7. Exceptional Experiences



My Encounter with the Lord through the Canossians!

Life is a journey filled with lessons, hardships, heartaches, joys, celebrations and special moments that will ultimately lead us to our destination, our purpose in life. The people that we meet on our journey, are people that we are destined to meet. Memories are priceless treasures that we can cherish forever in our hearts. They enable us to continue our journey for whatever life has in store for us. Sometimes all it takes someone to help us look inside ourselves and find a whole different person that we never knew existed. Our eyes are suddenly opened to a world we never knew existed- a world where time is so precious and moments never seem to last long enough. You do not really know where a road will lead you until you take it. Today I am filled with an inexplicable sense of pride and joy as I share my first encounter with the Canossian sisters. The welcome and hospitality shown by the sisters made each of us really at home. It was the first experience for all of us to come out of the house without our parents! However, the love and kindness shown by the sisters made all of us forget our worries. We were provided with both physical and spiritual nourishment. The journey from Pune to Dhule was adventurous, but we all experienced the protecting hand of God right through our journey to and fro.

I was touched and inspired by the words of St. Magdalene of Canossa as she says “Those who love are never tired, since love knows no burden”- A great person who never spared herself to step out into the world, to mingle with the poor and the lost. I

was deeply inspired and touched by the life of St. Magdalene as the sisters shared with us the journey of her life with all its ups and downs.

The various works carried out by the sisters for the people are wonderful and touching. The life of St. Magdalene of Canossa who dared to make a difference in the world had a deep impact on my life as a young girl. Then I began to ask myself if she as a young girl left her palace, richness and all comfort of life for Christ Jesus sake and the poor I too must do something different in this world. Here I began to reflect and ask God to show me the way I should go. I prayed for courage and guidance of the Holy Spirit to step out of my little palace where I remain very protected, loved by my family, friends, my dreams and hopes to achieve greater things in life.

Actually I have very little idea of the life of a nun and what kind of life that she lives in the convent. The first encounter with the Canossian sisters gave me a clear understanding and made great impact in my life as a young girl. I am sure this experience will surely help me to discern what God wants from me. A big thanks to my Srs. Sheela and Sarika for being a great instrument of Joy and providing me with a unique experience.

My experience in these 2 days at Dhule helped me to learn new things about life: how to cope with various situations of life. I will always remember the 3 valuable treasures I need to carry with me that is ***the Word of God, daily prayer and Rosary.*** Thank you dear sisters for instilling in me a thirst for the spiritual life and a deep desire to know more about God.

The day of departure from Dhule was very heart-breaking for me. Deep within me I felt a kind of attraction towards this life and I felt that God is calling me back to work in His vineyard!

Dear sisters the life experiences you shared, your own vocation stories, the various videos and the interactive sessions and games, I will always cherish. They will surely help me in the days to come to make a right choice in my life. I am really lucky and blessed for having visited such a divine and blessed place where I could feel God's presence. I am really proud of my Canossian sisters and their noble works carried out in different places in the world especially for the poor. I eagerly look forward to visit my Canossian Sisters and their mission.

Stuti Borde
Pune-Pimpri



➤ **Down MEMORY Lane**

‘Gratitude is an Attitude that comes from the HEART’

It's with great joy and Gratitude that I'd like to take you down memory lane. This year we complete 60 years of our joining at Canossa Nirmalashram. So along with my close companions: Our dear late Sr. Cecilia Rose Augustine-our chechi (as we called her) who passed away on 22nd Oct 2017 (Our Golden Jubilee year) Sr. Myrtle Pereira—who opted for the north Province and is now Superior in Firozabad community. Sr. Roseline Jacob Canossa Mahim, Sr. Nellie Menezes at Nirmalashram and myself, now at Canossa Ashram.

The 15th of September 1964, was a Red- Letter Day for the 5 of us. We were asked to get ready for our solemn entry into the postulancy. While we were doing so, we laughed and had fun; we were given white habits to put on, just below the knees, our hair was plaited and tied upwards, while we had to put on white socks and black shoes (not heels, mind you). At 4.00 p.m, the five of us, very piously with joined hands entered the lovely little chapel, along with our dear Fr. Sopena S.J. (of happy memory) Our beloved Postulant Mistress M. Linda De Zen, who walked along with dear M. Rina Zanaboni—who was both Novice Mistress as well as Superior. (May God grant Eternal bliss to both our beloved Mistresses) A short meaningful prayer service was conducted for us. Each one's name was called out and we went forward to receive a small cross with a chain. A small tea party for family followed.

We were so happy to be just five young Postulants with our dear M. Linda, as our mentor and inspiration. The Novices were in a separate wing. We looked to them in admiration and praise. We began to grow in the Love for Prayer more & more, through our daily meditation (M. Mistress was our guide) This love and longing for prayer brought us closer to Jesus. We were also taught the rudiments of religious life in a simple yet practical manner. Duties were given to us, to make us responsible and mature persons. Our dear Mother Linda helped us to grow not only spiritually, but as mature young women. She then prepared us by the end of this first year to enter into the next phase of our Religious life-the Novitiate.

We began our Novitiate on the 15th of Sept.1965 after the 8- day retreat given by our novice mistress. The intense training of the canonical year with silence, spiritual readings, study of rules, interiorization and guidance kept us happy and ready to live our consecrated life. In the second year we were engaged in some apostolate. The afternoons were spent in taking down (copying)

the treatises of our Foundress and also in some stitching. Some of us were made to learn music, either Western or Indian (or both), others specialized in tailoring, attended the course with a certificate at the end. A few of us who were already trained teachers were fortunate to be given the opportunity to begin our first ministry of the charity school which was at the entrance of our Nirmalashram. We began with just about 15 poor girls and boys who lived in our vicinity and are deeply grateful today. 'Long Live Canossa'

It's interesting to recall how well we were trained by our mothers in different tasks. We washed the clothes with enthusiasm and always saved the waste water for the fruit trees that we still see today. So 'hats off to us' for the huge ashoka trees, some mango and other fruit trees, besides the coconut trees, that stand today, filling us with joy and pride. Being novices, we were vying with each other in the practice of virtue. I still remember our M. Mistress' words: "There's no holiday in the practice of virtue". Being in the new building then (1963-'64) the verandas needed to be polished. So here we were as novices, on bended knees, in fact on all fours, with our dear mothers besides us, polishing the rough flooring with stones. Some of us had the palms of our hands bleeding (as we never did work like this) but we said not a word. Why such fear I wondered later. Yes, I know why! What if I may be sent home.

There was of course much more to the above. We had scripture classes weekly, very well explained to us by our Jesuit fathers who came from Vinayalaya. They also came daily for mass and weekly confessions. Our knowledge and love for scripture and other Spiritual matters kept growing by leaps and bounds, as we grew in wisdom, knowledge, in the practice of virtue and stature. We were taught to acknowledge our mistakes, by asking pardon. This helped us to grow in humility.

We longed for our evening half hour of games, recreation fun and laughter. This helped us to give vent to our feelings at times. Gardening and manual jobs gave us enough exercise. The great silence and night prayers gave a solemn ending to our day. Today we thank God for this precious intimate time with our spouse to be and the journeying of our formators with us.

Thus, prepared so lovingly and thoroughly we felt excited as the great day was approaching. On the 15th of Sept.1967, we said our joyful ‘Yes’ to God, by pronouncing our vows.

we thank God and every single person who came into our lives during our first formation. God bless and reward our beloved families who joyfully surrendered us to the Lord. We thank our dear institute, our formators, superiors and companions, who journeyed with us and all who enriched us by their very lives, bringing us closer to God and humanity, through their love and prayers.

We tearfully bid farewell to our beloved ‘Alma Mater’ saying: ‘Long Live Canossa’ Arriverderci Presto....

With a grateful heart
Sr. Flory D’souza.
Canossa Ashram.



➤ **My conviction of Jesus**

On 20th January 2024, we four hostelites were warming ourselves at a charcoal fire around 8:00 am in our compound a little away from our hostel kitchen. Among us one girl was a Hindu, another Protestant and two of us Catholics.

Suddenly the Hindu girl came forward, took a small burning stick and pointed it to the other Catholic girl and said “attention please, say Jai Shriram otherwise I will attack you”. The girl continued saying “I am not a Catholic, I a Hindu, Jai Shriram”. Then she turned to the Protestant girl and repeated the same to her by pointing the burning stick, “say Jai Shriram, otherwise you will be attacked by me, I am Hindu and not a Christian Jai Shriram”. Finally she turned towards me and repeated the same. I replied to her “You can kill me or do anything, Jesus is my God, and He is the only living God, I will never deny the Triune God and Mother Mary, you can attack me but I will not deny my God.

Suddenly the Hindu girl got frightened, she changed her tone of voice and said “Hey dear, I am just joking don’t take it so seriously”.

Though a small incident, I thank God for the courage that I had to defend my faith even at the point of risking my life.

The important point that I am trying to draw your attention towards is that “very few are convinced of what faith they are practicing. Each one is given freedom to practice any religion of one’s choice. Unless you are convinced of your faith you can never practice the religion with its true meaning. I feel proud to be a Catholic, and I want others to see the values of Jesus- love, forgiveness, justice and compassion- in me. I am a follower of Christ. ‘Jai Yesu’

**Stuti Santosh,
Canossa Hostel, Shrirampur**

➤ **My grumbling to giggle: an unexpected bonding in Bilpudi**

Bilpud's heart, Canossa stands bright
They filled my days with pure delight
Six periods flew, build a joyful bond
Lessons learned; hearts open wide for God

Bilpudi wasn't exactly what I'd envisioned for my retired life experience. Stepping into a class room with the same group of 6 graders for 6 periods straight on a Friday morning, I'll admit that I wasn't thrilled at all. The initial grumbling and complaining was real indeed!

But as the days passed, the 30 kids in the class each exhibiting unique traits had a way of turning things around. Yes, they were a delightfully naughty bunch, a whirlwind of innocent mischief. Yet they were also refreshingly simple. Most of the boys had little love for learning and great enthusiasm for enjoyment was shining in their playful eyes.

Gradually my Fridays became a beautiful symphony of study and enjoyment. At times some struggled to read even three letter words forget about learning Indian history, but they never failed to shower me with their unique brand of childhood love. This extended time together on Fridays built up a deep bond among us. Sometimes they bullied me saying "our lessons are over and we are tired, take us for games".

By the end of the year, these long Fridays, my initial grumbling had transformed into genuine enjoyment. These Canossa Class VI children, with their infectious energy and unadulterated enthusiasm, had turned a potentially monotonous day into a memorable enriching experience. Hence:

With thankful breath, I praise His name,
For endless grace and love so true
Bathed in His love, blessings never cease,
My grateful heart belongs to you Lord!

Sr. Thankam Michael
Premimata, Bilpudi



➤ **Love one another as I have loved you.**

Tears of joy well up in my heart. These are the feelings that come up when I recall this experience. One day in school after the 10th Std formative results, a student came to say that her mother wanted to meet me.

I realised it was important so I visited them. Her mother complained about a teacher who was mistreating her daughter.

The student was a migrant. I listened patiently to her mother. The next day I called that student and her friend who also felt the same. Both of them shared all that they were going through at the hands of that teacher. I assured them I would look into the matter soon for the benefit of all. They were very relaxed and happy that they shared their bitter experience with me and I assured them that I would do my best as soon as possible. After few months it was time for farewell. At the end of the farewell function both the students came to meet me and to my surprise gave me a beautiful greeting card with bold letters THANK YOU SISTER. I was surprised and felt happy to sense their spirit of love and gratitude. I wished them success in their life and assured them of my assistance in future if they ever felt they needed me. I returned to the staff room with the greeting

card. Reading the contents gave me an immense joy and tears welled up in my eyes as I read what they had written. They were not just words but they had shared their innermost feelings in it. At that moment I closed my eyes and just thanked God for making me His instrument in helping these poor migrant children.

I have realised that every child is a marvellous gift of God, precious and dear and when I give a listening ear to their sorrows with a compassionate heart genuinely accepting them, they begin to trust you and relate to you as a guide and friend.

The second experience that touched my life and changed me was when I visited a parent of a student.

After the exams I received a message from that student stating that she would not be able to attend school for few days as there was a wedding of her relative. I told her to inform the Headmistress about her absence from school in writing and get the required permission. The following evening I decided to visit her family and to my surprise I saw this particular girl roaming with her friend on the bike. I was taken aback because she had mentioned to me that she would not be at home because of the wedding. I decided to pursue this issue as I felt there was a need to clarify things. I continued to visit her house. I met her mother and spoke to her about her daughter. I also mentioned to her mother that the child was losing focus on her studies and was irregular in coming to school. Her mother then broke down and sadly related everything to me. With tears in her eyes she began to pour out the pain that she was going through. She told me that for past six years her husband had been away from the family. She prayed to God and to Our Lady of Vailankani fervently and waited for his return. She even made three attempts to end her life but it was at these moments that she strongly felt the support and strength of Our Lady of Vailankani. She told me that all three times when she wanted to end her life

Mother Mary saved her and from that moment she began to live for her children, trusting in God alone. Last year her husband returned home. The family which was disunited had been the reason for the children going wayward and this has affected their life. I was touched by her sharing and the faith she had in God and Mother Mary. Listening to this faith story my own thinking changed. I now wanted to give special attention to her, make her feel wanted and understood. At the end of her sharing I prayed for her and her family.

I realised that we ought to know the person first before we judge. It's important to be compassionate to the other because that changes everything. I am grateful to God for these experiences that made me compassionate and understanding.

Sr. Gloria Ferrao
Stella Maris Convent, Arambol



➤ **Ryshivana: A Journey of Transformation**

“My cup overflows with Your blessings.” Psalm 23: 6

These sentiments of the Psalmist kindled in me as I left Ryshivana. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty who gave me this beautiful opportunity to be in the institute of Ryshivana a centre of prayer, meditation, and contemplation, where silence prevails generally. It is situated on a hill-top where one could behold a beautiful scene of river Netravati flowing into the Arabian Sea.

The centre organizes courses, seminars, and retreats for priest, religious and laity. The Carmelite priests and staff are very warm, welcoming, and available. The spiritual and physical nourishments are well taken care of. There is enough space to walk and relax. The participants' day starts with thrilling voices raised in praise, thanks-giving and worship and concludes with Eucharist.

The program for the course is well planned with various topics suited to the participants. The resource persons are well versed in the topics they deal with. They impart their knowledge and wisdom with dedication and commitment. The subjects that are dealt are prayer, liturgy, prophets, Mariology, saints, ethics, media, etc. The aim is to renew and build oneself to be a better human being and committed religious. Over all the course helps to refresh and renew oneself. It shapes the mind and ignites the passion for learning, specially to know the scripture in-depth. Studying the Bible had led me to my personal growth, deeper understanding of my faith and values. I have been reading the Bible daily and I continue to read it everyday.

I am immensely grateful to Sr. Audrey and her team for granting me this much-needed break from my responsibilities. Their support and guidance enhanced my growth. As I move forward in life, I carry with me all that I have learned and experienced, while striving to be a better person.

May God be praised!

**Sr. Agatha Figer
Ashadeep, Fulwadi**

➤ **Called to be part of God's Kingdom**

Eve of 30th April
We 13 juniors like jewels
Entered Zaroli community
For our integrity

We began our day with spiritual conversation
Coz' Spirituality is our first prioritization
I, in depth looked into my soul
And realised prayer is my fuel

The second day theme "Self-discovery"
Gave hope to begin again my journey
I gained tips to know myself better
For, I want to grow in depth interior

The third day session was about Nuptial union
Reminded me of giving myself in complete submission
It renewed my desire of moving
Towards higher calling

Striving to become the "Bride of Christ"
Is my only thirst
I pray that I cherish "His Call"
In day to-day of my fall

Salute to the hospitality
Of our Zaroli community
Our hearts are grateful
For they are cheerful and faithful

Thanks to our Provincial team
For your interest in us(juniors) to reach our dream
Do bless us and accompany us
As we assure you of our faithfulness

Sr.Brijitha Davidappa
Nirmalamata Convent.Manicpur



➤ **Our enthusing and fruitful mission experience at Halkarni and Mangalwad.**

..... O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him (Ps 34:8).
We are very grateful to God for the gift of vocation He has given us. We are indeed glad to share our one week mission experience at Mangalwad and Halkarni. Mangalwad is known for its picturesque views, beautiful scenery and mesmerizing sugarcane fields. Though majority of the people are Hindus and only 80 Catholic families but they live in harmony. They have their own houses and land for cultivation. Though there is shortage of water and they encounter many other difficulties for their sustenance they are happy and contented. Our joyful hearts gave praise to God as we cherished this experience of coming in close contact with the ground realities of life.

At Halkarni visiting the villages and specially Catholic families gave us a new experience. Due to poverty many children are deprived of higher education. Though they face many challenges, no one can steal the contentment from their heart. Love and unity are the hallmarks of the village.

Through our visits to the families we brought joy to them. We could perceive in them the beloved poor of Magdalene. We were inspired by the simple life style of sisters in both the missions. This experience has strengthened our vocation and has deepened our passion for Christ and passion for humanity. We learned to adapt and adjust to different situations.



We are deeply indebted to our provincial Sr. Audrey and her team and Desur Community for their prayerful support and encouragement. A deep sense of gratitude to Sr. Maggie Martis and Sr. Maria Francis the animators of both Mangalwad and

Halkarni communities for helping us to have a unique and enriching mission experience. We owe much to Sr. Annie Joseph and Sr. Daisy for accompanying us throughout our experience.

Postulants Desur



➤ USM Leadership Training

I am Mayank Chaudhari and I am going to share my experience of the 7 days camp on leadership training at USM at Indore in MP. USM means Universal Solidarity Movement. I heard about this program from the previous batch of students who attended the USM leadership training. We were told many positive things, especially the positive atmosphere at USM. So, when I heard the name and how good this Movement is, I wanted to come here but my parents wouldn't allow me. But somehow, I managed to convince them.

Upon reaching to we received a warm welcome from the staff of USM. The friendly nature of the people around was appealing. I entered USM with the intention of enjoying all the 7 days like a picnic. But when I attended the first session my mindset changed completely. I was like 'Yeah, this training is interesting, I need to take it seriously' and indeed this program helped me a lot.

The USM was established by Fr. Varghese Alengaden on 16th 1993, in Indore. The values of non-violence, non-discrimination, sensitivity, vision and self-discipline are taught and practiced here.

This training was organized for the school CABINET and the main purpose of the training was to help us how to become Good Leaders. We were taken up by the uniqueness of the training. We had to observe and question ourselves deeply like Newton, learn from each other, make action plan. We were given many personal projects e.g. writing letters to the editor, book review, prime ministers speech, personal report, personal vision, goals and policies. Each of these activities had a lesson to teach me.

I learned from the USM community that, we should always control our anger, should be different from the crowd, be leaders who have zest, enthusiasm and determination, have courage to face problems, do something that nobody else has done so far, we should always have an opinion on various issues.

Besides the sessions and other practical work, we were also shown different value-based movies. The movie PRATIGHAT taught me how to be different from the crowd, to have my own opinion



and to have the courage to face the crowd alone. The movie DHARM taught me that religious fanaticism can kill the humanity in us. We should be more spiritual than religious and 'humanity is the greatest religion'. From the movie 'Gandhi' I learnt that we should use the method of active non- violence and fight for what is right. From the movie PRAHAT, I learned that a great leader should have qualities like zest, enthusiasm and great determination. Finally, the movie DO KALAKAR spurred me on to be a leader who is visionary and not ambitious.

After I returned from USM, I noticed some changes in me. I always wanted to be a person whose only goal was to be an IAS officer, but from now on I want to be an IAS officer with a difference that is the one who is self-disciplined, sensitive and to do my best by excelling in everything.

I am grateful to Sr. Monica Cardozo our headmistress, the teachers who accompanied us throughout the 7 days at USM. Also, the inspiring resource persons like Fr. Jacob, Miss Neetu and Sir Nitish who guided and motivated us during our stay at USM.

In the light of what I have learnt, I made the following resolution.

1. I will practice the 5 paths of self-transformation taught by USM.
2. I will read an inspirational book in a month.
3. I will reduce my wants and help the needy children with the money saved.

The following quotes are a source of inspiration to me, it gives me new life and boost to move forward.

‘At the end of our lives we should ask ourselves, did I live, did I love and did I matter’,

‘Self-defeat is the worst defeat’,

‘Touch the sky but keep your feet on the ground’,

‘When the going gets tough, the tough gets going’

Mayank Lalesh Chaudhari.

Student

Canossa High School, Dhule



➤ **With Grateful Hearts**

The Canossian world rejoiced with overflowing hearts on 1st March, 2024 as it celebrated the 250th Birth Anniversary of our Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa. As our Institute celebrated this historic **Semiquincentennial Jubilee**, an earnest group comprising of Canossian Sisters, Teachers, Lay Canossians, Collaborators and Secular Missionaries were truly blessed and privileged to have had the grace-filled opportunity to visit the palace of our Foundress St. Magdalene and the initial Foundation Convents. It was truly a blessed tour and the sentiment that echoed in every heart was, **‘What thanks O Lord, can we render Thee, for all the blessings You have showered on us...’**

It is here that we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Mother Superior General Sr. Sandra Maggiolo, our Vicar

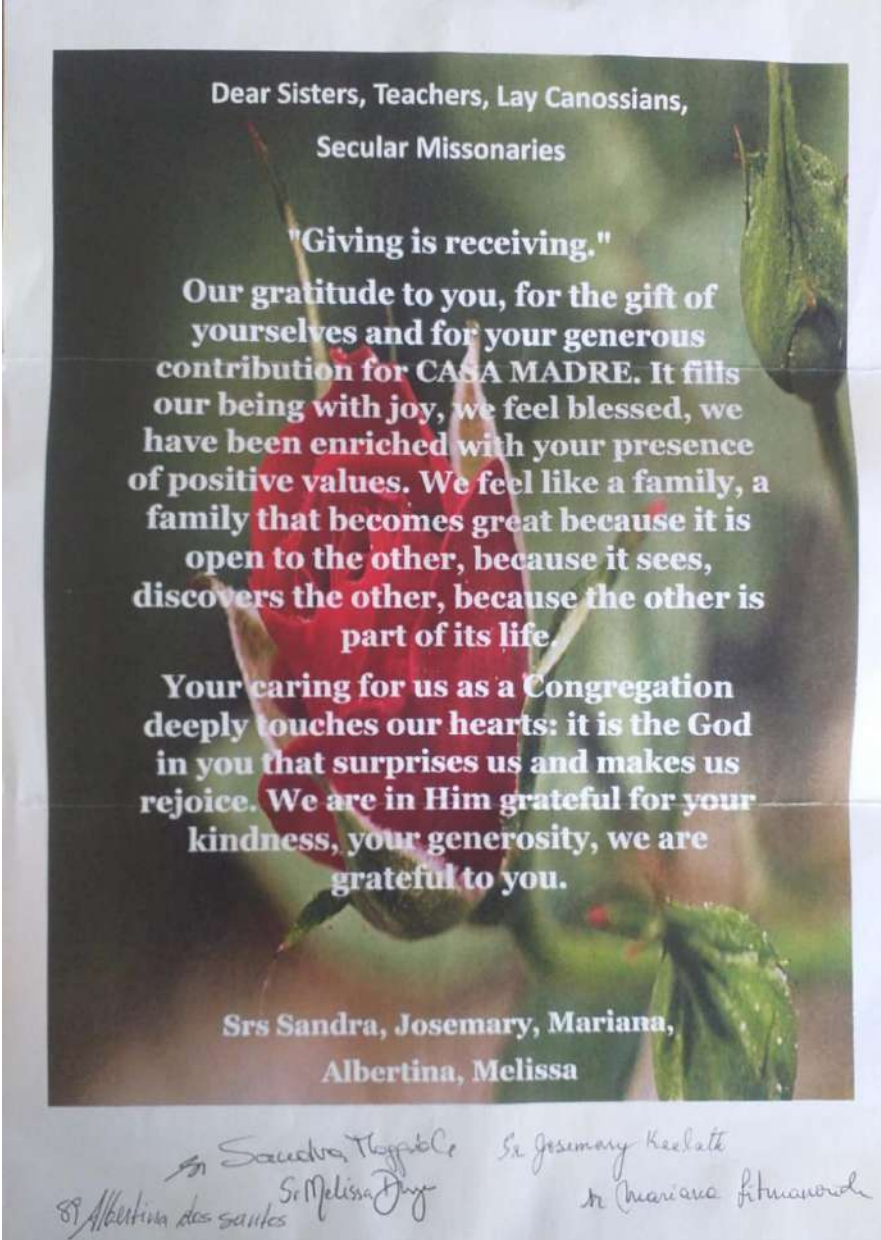
General Sr. Josemary Keelath, our General Councillors, our Provincial Sr. Audrey D'souza and her Councillors and our Principals Sr. Margaret Sequeira and Sr. Mary Abraham for their meticulous planning in making our dream of a visit to the homeland of our Foundress, the sweetest reality, ever.

Our prayerful visits to the Canossian convents in Verona, Ottavia and Schio, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist as one Canossian family, the visits to the Vatican, the Cathedrals at Milan and Lourdes were truly divine gifts. The sightseeing and bonding as one Canossian Family will always hold a special place in our treasure trove of memories.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our dear Canossian Sisters and pray for our Heavenly Father's blessings on every Canossian as we grow from strength to strength and spread the flame of God's love, wherever we go.

Mrs. Letticia Fernandes





Dear Sisters, Teachers, Lay Canossians,
Secular Missonaries

"Giving is receiving."

Our gratitude to you, for the gift of yourselves and for your generous contribution for CASA MADRE. It fills our being with joy, we feel blessed, we have been enriched with your presence of positive values. We feel like a family, a family that becomes great because it is open to the other, because it sees, discovers the other, because the other is part of its life.

Your caring for us as a Congregation deeply touches our hearts: it is the God in you that surprises us and makes us rejoice. We are in Him grateful for your kindness, your generosity, we are grateful to you.

Srs Sandra, Josemary, Mariana,
Albertina, Melissa

Sr. Saucilio Thofpale
Sr. Josemary Kaelath
Sr. Mariana Schmauch
Sr. Albertina dos Santos
Sr. Melissa Dwyer

8. Reminiscence



Talasari mission

"Make your life a mission - not an intermission." - Arnold H. Glasgow

Talasari is an Adivasi tribal area situated in the northeast region of Maharashtra, on the border of Gujarat. Fr. Ramon Nubiola S.J. had a great desire to have a group of sisters work among the Varli women of Talasari. He approached the late Cardinal Valerian Gracias, the then Archbishop of Mumbai, who in turn asked the Canossian sisters to take up this mission.

Early Beginnings:

The community of four sisters from Zaroli were transferred by the Provincial to Talasari as she felt their presence was not needed in Zaroli. Talasari had no roads and was near the forest, infested with snakes. Food was not easily available, and life was hard. The sisters opened a dispensary in January 1953. Under the inspiration and example of M. Lucy Casartelli and M. Regina Cerea, the work was a success. M. Livia Giobelli joined them later. The love, devotion, and joy of the sisters and their fellow workers made a deep impression on the Adivasis. The sisters visited the villages and, despite the prevalent superstition

and witchcraft, the spiritual harvest was promising. M. Nataline Fernandes sowed the seeds of Christian faith in 52 villages. She was a guide, counsellor and friend to many men and women. The sisters believed, "It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in doing" that matters.

Expansion of Services:

Leprosy was a terrible scourge and so widely spread that a separate building had to be constructed. Two sisters specialized in leprosy eradication and control through healthcare, detection camps, and treatment. The leprosy patients would patiently wait under the shade of a big tree for the sisters to arrive in their mobile clinic and treat them, give them medicines, and food. There were 10 such centers, with the mobile clinic moving from one to another according to their schedule.

Vision and Mission:

Vision sees the stars; mission carves the path to reach them. Vision without a purposeful mission is a ship without a compass, drifting aimlessly in the sea of aspirations. There are roads where people go, and where they should arrive is their mission. Vision without mission is lame; mission without vision is blind. A mission is the supreme target. A journey of achieving a goal is a mission. Life itself is a mission. The founding mothers had a vision and they fulfilled their mission.

Present-Day Achievements:

At present, there are 45 in-patients, 2 rehabilitation centers, and 3 mobile clinic centers where, on average, 140 patients are catered to on a weekly basis. The yeoman service of the sisters is appreciated by everyone, both religious and civil. The dispensary proved to be too small, and in 1975 the sisters shifted from Talasari (Jesuit fathers' place) to Vadoli. A fully equipped hospital was built with the aid of foreign funds. The hospital proved to be a boon to the Adivasis who had not experienced any medical care. Sr. Vilma Nazareth, who qualified as a medical doctor from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, has served in Talasari for more than 25 years.

Education and Training:

Talasari also has a boarding facility for Varli girls from Std. V to Std. VII. The socio-pastoral needs of the various villages are taken care of. The living conditions of the people improved. To cope with the needs of the time, in 2007 multi-specialties were introduced in the hospital. The hospital building was renovated and raised to a 100-bedded hospital. A School of Nursing (ANM) started in 2009 (2-year course, 25 students per batch) in the hope of giving opportunities to girls to serve humanity in healthcare. In 2017, with the help of CSR, a separate building was constructed for the students of the Nursing School. In 2021,

the GNM course was introduced (3-year course, 40 students per batch). Every year, the students come out with flying colours.

Future Prospects:

Over the years, the hospital has undergone a metamorphosis. Due to various factors, the hospital started a slow downward spiral in growth. The in-patients have been decreasing, and the hospital is not able to meet its revenue expenditure. Talasari hospital has become a financial burden. The community has suggested exploring the possibility of working in partnership to see if redemption is possible. Legal and technical advice should be sought before launching out, keeping in mind that everything should come under the purview of the hospital.

Efforts are being made to maximize the use of the hospital through medical camps, the possibilities of introducing a Geriatric wing, and the feasibility of an Oncology Centre, etc. We hope to see a vibrant hospital full of activities and an influx of patients in and out of the hospital, benefiting the poor from our services.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” “I don’t know what tomorrow holds, but I know WHO holds tomorrow.” Trusting in Him, we move ahead. Following the

footsteps of St. Magdalene, let us fan the flames and set life on fire.

Sisters of Talasari



➤ **The Seed that blossomed....**

Divine Providence Convent/ orphanage is the answer of an unfailing faith trust in the bountiful protection of God. It was the ‘faith walk’ visionary leadership of Sr. Angela Zottele, the then superior of St. Joseph’s Convent, Camp, Belgaum who perceived the urgent need of a home for the many little children orphaned mainly as a result of WWI (World War I). her untiring efforts led to the foundation of Divine Providence. The pioneering community consisting of Sr. Clotilde D’Cruz, Sr. Margaret Cambiaghi and sr. Racheal Sebastian moved to Tilakwadi on the 7th of October 1921. It was a joyful moment for the little children to have a place which they could call ‘home’

Yes! This is the beginning of Divine Providence, a name, totally unique and priceless. Over the last 100 years it has never ceased to be a tangible example of the deep faith and increasing hope in the Providence of God. And with this began also the long and fruitful journey of Divine Providence Convent and High School.

The following year 1922 on January 23rd the school started with Sr. Clotilda D’Cruz as the first Head Mistress followed by Sr. Josephine D’Souza who efficiently managed the school during

the difficult and all-important nurturing period. Soon enough Divine Providence School began to flourish year after year....

Divine Providence School has lovingly catered to the all-round development of thousands of girls over the last 100 years. Besides taking care of their academic curriculum, co-curricular activities such as N.C.C., Girl Guides, Bulbuls, Sports and Games and outreach programmes have been undertaken to ensure the holistic development of the students. A dedicated and efficient staff have guaranteed that no stone was left unturned in bringing out the very best in every student. We are happy to see our ex-students well placed in life, living the core values they learned in the classroom.

Our school has carved a special name for itself in academics, sports, science and technology and many other co-curricular activities. It is our hope that each and every student will take advantage of every opportunity to avail the facilities provided to them and develop their potential to the utmost.

As we continue to walk in the footsteps of our mother foundress St. Magdalene of Canossa, it is our sincere desire to see our young students pass out from their Alma Mater imbued with an upright character, soaring in every dimension of life. With a keen sensitivity to the needs of the less fortunate in the society. Wherever you are our beloved Divinites may the blessings of the Divine Providence always follow you.

Sr. Rose Abraham
Divine Providence

9. On Lighter Note....



Read & enjoy!!!!!!

1. Why did the scarecrow win an award?
- Because he was outstanding in his field!
2. Why don't skeletons fight each other?
- They don't have the guts.
3. Why was the math book sad?
- Because it had too many problems.
4. Why don't we ever tell secrets on a farm?
- Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears
5. Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?
- Because he was always spotted!
6. Why did the bicycle fall over?
- Because it was two-tired!

Sr. Answeeta D'silva
Kalidevi, MP

➤ Computer Riddles

1. Why did the computer catch cold?
- Because it left the window open.
2. Why did the computer get glasses?
- To improve its web- sight.

3. Why did the computer show up late at work?

- Because it had a hard drive.

4. How does the computer get drunk?

- It takes screen- shots.

Sr. Hyacinth Fernandes

Nirmalashram



➤ **Universal bank of Gods blessings**

We are happy to tell you that we have opened an account for you at the universal bank of God's Blessings. And have deposited 365 days full of LOVE, PEACE, JOY AND HOPE. Enjoy adding and withdrawing everyday without any fear of overdrawing. The more you give away the more you will receive.

Dear sisters now as you have launched out into the world, my advice to you is to take great care of your body parts, I mean the body ministers.

BRAIN: IS OUR PRESIDENT: -

Feed it with great and noble thoughts, reading etc.

HEAD: EDUCATION MINISTER: -

"Have head on your shoulders. "HOLD IT HIGH BY HUMBLE, UPRIGHT AND HONEST WAYS.

NOSE: HEALTH MINISTER: -

Smell and take in, only fragrance of love. "FRAGRANCE clings to the hand that crushes the flowers".

TONGUE: MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: -

Get and broadcast only that builds up and not that breaks.

EARS: MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION: -

Listen and communicate only helpful information.

EYES: INFORMATION FOR LAW AND ORDER: -

Overlook, Watch and sometimes close one eye. "BE the change that you want."

HEART: CARING MINISTER: -

TAKE GREAT CARE TO LOVE GOD AND ALL. LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART. Listen what others are not saying.

HAND: LABOUR MINISTER AND HEALING MINISTER: -

"HARD WORK NEVER KILLS." Work hard as long as you can. Heal by your touch, kind words and deeds.

TEETH: MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES: -

Bite your teeth when you feel to say angry or unpleasant words.

STOMACH: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER: -

Eat well. "Eat to live not live to eat." Cultivate good eating habits.

SKIN: DEFENCE MINISTER: -

Gentle touch, caring nature will keep you glowing.

LEGS: TRANSPORT MINISTER: -

"Walk an extra mile". Go where the Lord wants, you will never regret. Keep on moving, no stagnation, life will be beautiful.

LIPS: UNION MINISTER: -

A gentle kiss and hugs will always keep you united. A kiss and hugs uplift and raise up someone fallen.

Remember, if you take care of these ministers and keep them happy, they will in turn take care of you and keep you happy and contented. They will give direction to your life.

As you came in, we gave you an APRON which was a symbol of Hard Work and you did it. As you leave, we give you Bag which is a symbol of readiness to Go anywhere at any time.

SO, WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST TO GO WHERE THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BE.

Sr. Glenda Pereira

St. Xavier Canossa, Dhule



Picture Puzzle IQ Test: Find the mistake in the stack of shoes in 5 seconds!



Find 3 differences between the camping scene in 16 seconds!

Dad I don't want to walk to school tomorrow!



Son, when Abraham Lincoln was your age he walked 12 miles to get to school



Oh yeah, well dad ...



Yes son?



When Abraham Lincoln was your age he was president



.....



Congratulations!

Dear Sr. Gracy Rodrigues



Common Good Award

- S A T A



"I desire that God may
set your heart on fire
with his love"

-St. Magdalene of Canossa



New Life

