

# SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

## PROVINCE OF INDIA

### NEWSLETTER



February 2019

#### ***NEWS FROM KRISTPREMALAYA COMMUNITY***

##### **25 Years in the Society and Teaching Ministry (1993 – 2018)**

How quickly the time has passed, I can't believe it. I began my teaching career at Little Flower School after my graduation when I was 21. I was a seeker then, staying at Fatima Sadan, Sophia Campus. Greatly inspired by Sr. Celia Remedios' life and love for the children, I went on to do a B.Ed. at St. Teresa Institute of Education, Santa Cruz, as a pre-candidate. This was followed by candidacy at Haregaon; where again I had the opportunity to teach in the school under the leadership and guidance of another rscj, Sr. Pratibha Pinto. These early years of teaching in rscj-run institutions laid the foundation of a passion for education, particularly of school children.

The two years of novitiate under Sr. Vimala Verghese helped me to understand the Society's charism and mission of education, to grow and develop the heart of an educator and imbibe the spirit of education. This was very important and necessary, especially when I spent three years at St. Anthony's High School, Malavni, after my novitiate. Working in a parish school was both challenging and enriching as it gave me the opportunity for pastoral work as well. Teaching English and Geography (not my subjects!) to high school boys and girls was a daunting task.

Then came the call to be in Haregaon again and my joy knew no bounds. I spent the next precious 9 years of my life in teaching, supervising and parish activities. It was here that I found great joy, love and contentment teaching English and being with the simple and poor children. My thanks go to Sr. Irene and Sr. Jokina whose guidance and support helped me also to discover my gift for administration. It was as if God was preparing me for my future ministry at Sophia College.

It's 11 years that I have been in Sophia Junior college and have much to thank God for the many, many opportunities I have had to learn and grow under the inspiration and leadership of Sr. Anila and Sr. Ananda. Sophia has opened my mind, heart, ears and eyes through the daily nitty-gritty of administration, the ups and downs of teaching experiences and the challenging times of interacting with students, parents and staff.

I thank God for all that I have received from the Society, the ministries and communities that I have been in and specially for the many rscjs who have accompanied me spiritually in my life as an rscj, namely Srs. Manisha, Vimala, Celia Remedios, Pratibha, Shanti and Phila Gomes. I pray that the Lord continues to bless me with all the graces I need as I recommit myself to the heart of Jesus, where alone I find hope, peace and joy, ready to go to new frontiers within and outside.

*Annie Peter rscj*

##### **“UBUNTU” I Am Because We Are**

This is the theme that has been inspiring the Sadhana School team during the year. As preparations for the concert began in June, there was an atmosphere of excitement in the school. We had an external script writer and a choreographer – but the choosing of students for different roles and training them was the responsibility of the staff. What has impressed me all along is the ability of the staff to recognize the capacity and gifts of each child so that every child is integrated into the concert. There may be one who is not very verbal and highly autistic – he feels good to be just selling balloons in the park scene. Or a big made boy who can all but walk across the stage – he is chosen to be the

“chanawalla”. There was a place for each and every student .... St Madeleine Sophie’s “for the sake of one child” keeps resounding in my heart. Even the parents could hardly believe that their child is able to perform on the stage. It gave them so much hope and encouragement. They were very grateful for this experience. For the staff it was an experience of working together – where no one person shines – but it is a united effort which in the end brings us the standing ovation that we got!!

*Pratibha Pinto rscj*

### **A peep into our lifestyle**

- Interconnectedness is one of the priorities in our lifestyle this year. We therefore decided to invite the RSCJ from the Campus for a “high tea” for Sr. Celia’s birthday. It was a time when there were several off campus RSCJ around and their presence added to our joy.
- Soon after this we were really happy to have the whole Campus huddled together in our community room for Christmas carols on Christmas morning. We asked for the tradition of K.P. Community beginning the carol singing to be changed. Our Christmas decorations this year were very special and made by Pratibha. This gave our ‘living space’ a festive look.
- As half the community is engaged in full time ministry we are not together for breakfast and lunch – but always together for community prayer and supper.
- Our contribution to the Campus is having the priest for breakfast on Wednesdays and Fridays right through the year!!
- From time to time we see a movie together as recreation.

We want you to know that you are always welcome to “K.P” community - **to visit, to stay, to share**

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