

NEWS
BULLETIN of THE SRI LANKAN PROVINCE.

SEPT. 2019

Rejoice and be glad for it is the Birthday of our blessed Mother. She is the Mother of all peoples and of all Nations. Why is this? This is because she is the mystery of sinless life and virgin through all her life. In the Bible



many women have been mentioned, like Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth, Micah, Anna, Elizabeth and Mary. But Mary is specially chosen by God because she is to be the mother of His Jesus our redeemer and Savior. Jesus her one and only Son gave all of us at His death on the cross to her motherhood. So let us be sure of her love and care for each one of us and all mankind. So on this happy day of her birth let us be glad and rejoice and entrust our life to her loving care and always pray to her and ask her to lead us to his beloved son Jesus. Let us also follow her humility and obedience to God's will

in our life as she did always and love her always in our life.

Sr. Elizabeth Paul scjm, Trinco.

Gracefully getting old.....



Life is a precious gift God has given me. As time goes on and ageing in life I really experience the beauty and challenges of religious life, giving me hope to live my vocation totally as a Sister of Charity of Jesus and Mary. The Word of God has enriched my interior life and has encouraged me from my young age to be faithful to my vocation to face all life situations courageously trusting in His Divine Mercy.

As my maiden name is Mary, I have great love for Mother Mary. She guides me and helps me to live my life gracefully in humility and obedience building communion in community. My faith and love for the Holy Eucharist is enlightening me and leading me to live sacrificially my mission of love. Lives of Father Triest, Mother Placide and the Message of Mother Hostia have been an inspiration to me to be a contemplative in action.

This year I have entered the 83rd year of my life, gazing towards the future in hope of Eternal Life, my life has changed from a very active life to a more prayerful and peaceful life and I could say that I will be faithful to the call to live the life of Jesus in the Father, under the radiance of the Spirit of Love and be an apostle according to the Heart of Jesus.

Sr. Eustace scjm - Galle

60 YEARS SPENT IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD.

The 20th of August 2019 was a red letter day for the community of Ranwala convent as well as for Sr Scholastica, as she celebrated her diamond Jubilee (60 years) as a Sister of Charity

Feast of St Bernard was a special day for most of us who were celebrating our anniversary of religious Profession. Surrounded by the Sisters of Charity, from different parts of Sri Lanka, as well as Sr Scolasticas' own family members, she was already seated in the chapel to praise and thank God together with all those who were present, as she was too feeble to walk in procession for the Holy Eucharist.

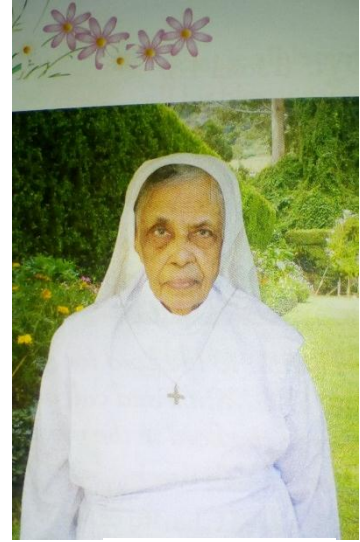
Before the Holy Eucharist Sr Marie Samamranayake in her introduction, traced the different communities she served as well as the Nunciature, in her younger days. Sister also mentioned her willingness to help and to go wherever she was sent by the province, whenever the need arose. She also mentioned Sister's lovely smile that captured all those who came in contact with her.

The Chief celebrant was His Lordship Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, the bishop of Ratnapura. His Lordship expressed his joy for being able to be present on this occasion as Sr Scholastica hails from Keerapathdaniya, a parish from his diocese. As such there were many priests present who were from her hometown as well as from the diocese.

In his sermon the Bishop said that he purposely chose the gospel passage (the parable of the difference between the house built on the sand and that of the rock) because the perseverance in religious or priestly life depends on the good foundation that is laid in the beginning of one's early life.

The liturgy was well prepared, and the hymns very appropriate and meaningful. I am sure that for the sisters present for this occasion it was an opportunity for one's own renewal as well as for bringing back memories of one own day of commitment. After the Eucharist surrounded by the bishop, priests, the sisters, the family members and the elders, the jubilee cake was cut to the singing of congratulations and sister was presented with gifts.

Of course this was followed by fellowship – a sumptuous lunch prepared by Sr Benignus and her helpers. We thank the organizers for giving us the opportunity to join Sr Scolastica to thank God for 60 years of dedicated and committed life spent in the vineyard of the Lord. We thank God for holding her with great care and love all these years and pray that He will continue to journey with her.



Sr. Edel Peiris scjm, Kegalle



Anantha Aham – a house for us at Anandapuram at Iranappalai in the diocese of Jaffna was opened by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam on the 21st of June 2019 at 5 p.m. together with our Provincial Rev. Sr. Ajitha Fernando.

The blessing of our Heavenly Father, the desire and the deep commitment of the people of Anandapura, hard work of Rev. Fr. Leo Armstong, prayers and the service of our sisters, the generosity of the Bishop which realized for us to have a house at Anandapuram within 6 months after the laying of the



foundation, after serving 4 year in that parish. To spread the kingdom of God and to share the spirituality of our dear Founder Canon Fr. Triest, it is a blessing and to continue our services to the people in Vanni where people were badly affected by the civil war.



Together with Sr. Ajitha her councillors and our sisters (28) from different communities , Rev. Fathers, Holy Family sisters and the people of Ananthapuram and from the other sub-stations coloured the occasion. All were happy and grateful to the Lord for this blessing.

Sr. Yoga SCJM, Vavuniya.

English Day – Sacred Heart Montessori, Galle.

The Annual English day of Sacred Heart

Convent Montessori for the year 2019 was held on the 30th of July at the Montessori Main hall. This year’s English day carried the theme of “Wonders of Sri Lanka”, with the intention of celebrating its beauty. The event was graced by Rev. Sr. Patsy Nesamalar, the principal of Sacred Heart Convent, Galle, as the chief guest and by Rev. Sr. Malkanthi



Fernando, the Mother Superior of the Convent, as the guest of honour.



The English day was made another memorable day in the history of the school's calendar with the enchanting performances of the little heartians. The agenda was filled with speeches, displays, recitations and storytelling. The tiny heartians however, did not



fail to entertain the audience



with their ballet dance to 'let the children have a world' and a couple dance, which added more colour to the day.

Organizing an event of this magnitude is never an easy task. Nevertheless, it provides a great platform for the little heartians to share their talents as well as to improve their language skills. Thus, The English day 2019 of Sacred Heart Convent Montessori, successfully came to an end by keeping an important thought in everybody's mind;

"A clean earth is a happy earth: Grow green and save earth".



Sr. Stella Francis scjm, Galle

CDI Activity - Sr. Nichola

CDI (Child Development Initiative) is a voluntary organization registered in Vavuniya DS Division on 25th January 2012 and began to function since January 2012

The Goal: Enhancing the quality of life of Children, Women and the war affected by creating a Peaceful and Safe Environment to life with dignity and freedom.

Mission: Enabling the traumatized and war affected especially children and women to have security and self reliance with their needs fulfilled and rights protected, so that they can live in familiar circumstances freed from all harassment.

Education Programs implemented for Children:

"Education is vital to lasting positive change in children's lives. Main focus of CDI is on the education of children in order to provide lasting benefits for the children.

350 children have been provided stationery, clothes, and toilet requisites with the help of a voluntary organization from Australia. This is a yearly program for Christmas. Children have been selected from the war affected schools of Valaippadu, Puthukudiruppu, Kilinocchi, Vavuniya, Jaffna and Mannar. 3 nursery schools in Cheddikulam and one in Kiranchi, Valaippadu were provided nursery items, toys and stationary

Over 500 children have been provided with stationery with the help of an NGO “Lend a Hand” in Colombo. 100 children have been provided with shoes including 30 children of the disappeared family. Quite number children have been assisted with tuition fees, training on computer and season tickets to travel to school.

Livelihood Projects for FHH:



An organization from Australia aided Rs.one million for livelihood project of single headed women providing, poultry, animal husbandry, sewing machine, house renovation and gardening. 30FHH (Female Headed Household) including a disable man on wheel chair have been assisted livelihood activities. Activities involve poultry, animal husbandry, business, water pump and gardening. The women are able to maintain their families to some extent and to educate their children.

Participation at the protest of the families of the disappeared and memorialization of Mullivaikkal

Families of the disappeared are on the street asking for their dear ones who have been surrendered to the government. They are now on the street for more than 800 days. From time to time they stage a fasting and at the end of the fasting they are given water. However they the government has turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to their request as to what has happened to their dear ones surrendered. They want to know the Truth so that they can be reconciled.

Memorialization; Every year May 18th a Memorialization ceremony takes place at Mullivaikkal the place of the last stage of the war. Thousands of mourners come to pay their tribute to those who have died at the end of the war. Memorialization is a healing process to the families.

Sr. Nichola scjm
Vavuniya



PROGRAMME ON PASTORAL CARE.

Rev.Fr. Kalana Peiris is the speaker for this programme. Almost all the sisters who attended this seminar knew him and so there was only a short Introduction was given by Sister Patsy. Then he started playing his guitar. We wondered what was going to happen. But he took us in prayer to worshipping and praising God and invited the Holy Spirit to guide all of us. After that one of the sisters read a quotation from the gospel of St. Luke at his request. Then he explained the words “Jesus loved him” which means Jesus loves us as we are. Father stressed this sentence very much to show us the sisters that Jesus loves us immensely and He wants us love him dearly. As it is about pastoral care then he took the conversation between Jesus and St. Peter “Do you love me, Take care of the lambs” (Jn21/15). Pope Francis says to the pastors that they have to bear the smell of the sheep. Everything we have is His gifts and so I am not the answer for anything and anyone. We need to remember we are only the bridge. (Is:50/4ff) To speak like a teacher, to Jesus, you must hear him speak to you through the Holy Spirit. Tune your heart to listen to him, be with him. We have got used to the routine so much we have no time to rest with him in his presence. We are given more and the Lord will expect more from us Jesus says.

Father also took the scene and event of Martha and Mary. Martha invited him to their house but didn't give time to be with him. We need to find our mission in the routine with which we live. Meet your God in your inner chamber and make your secrets sacred ones because he knows all your secrets. Go to him and grow in Him. Live a life of Mary in Martha's world because she was so anxious but did not sit at his feet to listen. She was so busy to prepare everything. BUSY means B=be, U=under, S=SATAN'S, Y=York. And so be very careful with yourself. It's a choice to be with the Lord. It's a difficult choice but everything will be done well for the Spirit will do everything. Have time with him, find time to be with Jesus and have connection with Him. (Rev:2/4ff).



Sr. Elizabeth Paul scjm, Trinco



About Life and Success

- “The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. ...
- “Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.” ...
- “You learn more from failure than from success.” ...
- “If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed”



St. Mary's Montessori - "Sigithi Pola" - 2019

The "sigithi Pola" of St. Mary's Convent Montessori was held on Friday 08.03.2019 in the Montessori Premises. It was held from 11, 12, 13th according to the level of the classes.

The main adviser was the principal of the Montessori Rev. Sr. Mangalika and with the help of the staff this "Sigithi Pola" was organized. The children in different classes "Tulip, Lily, Rose Olu, Nelum, Manel, Poppy, Carnation, Dhelia and Orchid" participated in the "Sigithi Pola".

The invited guests who took part in different days were the Principal and Mother Superior of St. Mary's Convent, Rev. Father Collin Administrator of the Parish, Rev. Sr. Marie administrator and Rev. Mother Constance.

The main aim to conduct this "Sigithi Pola" was to bring the children to the development stage in their childhood, to give them the knowledge, attitude and talent to be important citizens in society.

These children came to the Montessori dressed in different costumes as sellers, and bringing different kinds of food and things to sell. All the children were in their selling huts, selling their things happily and freely shouting "labai, labai, badu ganna enna" with great enthusiasm. The Montessori was filled with their Sigithi voices echoing throughout the Montessori.



Sr. Mangalika scjm, Matara

"Do not ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet."

"Failure Will Never Overtake Me If My Determination To Succeed Is Strong Enough." - Og Mandino

