

January - March 2018

Vol. XXV; No.99

The BEACON

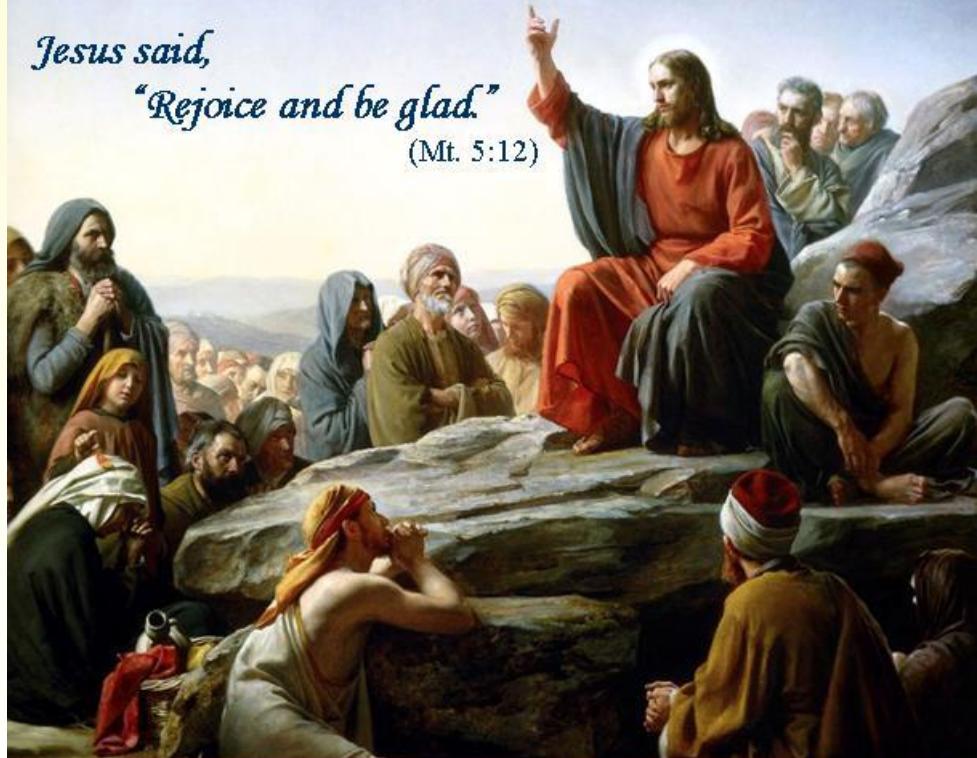


Province of Our Lady of the Mount, North India

Jesus said,

"Rejoice and be glad."

(Mt. 5:12)



GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE

(Rejoice and be Glad)

Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis

19th March, 2018



News from the Province

Seminar on Accountancy held at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, 28th January to 31st January 2018

A Seminar on 'Accounts, Finance and Law for 'Not-for-Profit and Religious Organizations' for the Animators, Principals and Treasurers of the Province. The Resource person was Rev. Fr. Trevor D'Souza OFM, B.Com. FCA, M.A from Bangalore. It's aim was to equip the Sisters with better knowledge on topics like –'Accounting and Spirituality'; Income Tax and TDS; Society, Trust and Company; Tally; and the like. The Seminar was attended by nearly 50 Sisters representing each and every community of the Province.

Fr. Trevor stressed on why religious need a course in accounts and taught the Sisters the basic of Tally and encouraged each branch to do their accounts on tally. After every session the room was open for questions and queries wherein the Sisters could clear out their doubts and difficulties. He also spoke on Budgeting and said that it is a financial tool that limits our resources in a best possible way. It is a constructive tool.

The Seminar was an enriching experience that would help the Sisters to fulfil their mission more effectively.



Activities of the Provincial Government:

Provincial Superior's Canonical Visit to the Fraternities: Sr. Marjorie Caldeira, Provincial Superior, conducted the Canonical visit to the following communities:

03rd – 05th January	St. Patrick Convent, Devlali, Nashik
06th – 08th January	St. Philomena Convent, Nashik Road
09th – 11th January	Nirmala Convent, Nashik City
15th – 17th January	Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada
18th – 20th January	Portiuncula Convent, Ashagad
01st – 02nd February	St. Joseph Postulants House, Goregaon
03rd – 05th February	St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon
10th – 14th February	Jyoti Niwas Convent, New Delhi
15th – 18th February	Shanti Bhavan Convent, Indiranagar
19th – 22nd February	St. Joseph Cathedral Convent, Lucknow
01st – 05th March	Mount Mary Convent, Bandra

Sr. Leopoldina Miranda, Assistant Provincial, was delegated to conduct the Canonical visit to the following communities:

09th – 11th January	Kripa Bhavan Convent, Sandor, Vasai
12th – 15th January	St. Elizabeth Convent, Holi, Vasai
17th – 21st January	Jeevan Jyoti Convent, Jhabua
12th – 14th February	Clara Niketan Convent, Bhopal
15th – 17th February	Clara Niwas Convent, Bhopal

Provincial Government Meeting

01st January: 19 th Meeting	27th January: 20 th Meeting
24th – 25th February: 21 st Meeting;	17th – 18th March: 22 nd Meeting

26th February: The Provincial Government along with the Formators spent a day in prayer and recollection at the Don Bosco House, Lonavla. Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Salesian of Don Bosco highlighted on seven experiences of the beloved apostle St. John in his encounter with Jesus. This



was followed by the sacrament of reconciliation, adoration and the Holy Eucharist, during which the Sisters raised their hearts in gratitude for the many blessings received from the Lord on the Province.

11th January: Meeting of the Vocation Promoters was held at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi.

26th January: Formators Meeting was held at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon

25th February: Formators Meeting was held at Portiuncula Convent, Ashagad

Youth Vocational Pastoral

6th January: Sr. Gloria Manbhat and Sr. Lucy Pereira organized a vocation camp for Ashagad mission girls. 37 girls attended this camp. The resource person was Rev. Fr. Joe Albuquerque, who conducted a spiritual game through which the girls understood how to be alert and active in life followed by a thought provoking talk where he spoke about a precious gift of human life and the different calls. Fun filled games were also conducted. Sr. Lucy Pereira and Sr. Gloria Manbhat shared their vocation stories.

21st January: Being Vocation Sunday Sr. Nayana D'Cunha accompanied the boarding children to Our Lady of Remedy Church where she shared her vocation story and how God has helped her to work selflessly in His vineyard.

25th January: As a vocation activity, the life of St. Paul was dramatized by the catholic students under the guidance of Sr. Maria Waghmare at St. Joseph Convent, Bilmora. Sr. Fatima Menezes explained the meaning of the passage and how each baptized Christian is called to evangelize. The session concluded with an action song, 'It's I who build community'.

09th February: Sr. Melanie Malazarte went to Sorsogon for vocation work. She visited different schools in the different parts of Sorsogon and gave vocation talks. She also made efforts to visit the families of the girls who showed interest for the religious life.

03rd March: Girls day out was a program organized by 'Friends of Jesus', an all-girls youth group. It was an evening that witnessed the participation of 35+young girls from all across Mumbai. A session was conducted by Mrs. Maureen Pereira, a Life-skills and language trainer. She took the girls through the journey of the issues like peer pressure and self-obsession that affect the youth in the present day and spoke about how to positively deal with such issues. Many girls expressed how this session helped them to get a deeper understanding of their lives. The idea of getting girls together was to understand the situation of girls and

find the solution. This was done through a group discussion where they were to discuss on the problems faced by girls in society and also what type of sessions would they look forward to and how often. The young girls of Mount Mary's Convent showcased their talent with song and dance. There were action songs that kept all the participants interested and busy and gave them the opportunity to build new bonds. The evening concluded with the Taize prayer conducted by Fr. Ryan, Fr. Alban and Mrs. Melody. It was a fun filled, interactive, value based and prayerful evening.



Initial Formation

11th and 12th January:

The Postulants along with Sr. Juliet Thevar attended a two days Inter-congregational workshop on 'Art Therapy' by Dr. Evelett Sequeira, M.D., at Canossa Convent, Andheri.

The Novices and

Postulants of Canossa, Daughters of the Cross, Fatima's and the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception joined and were enriched and healed through the different exercises and sessions.

14th to 20th January: The Postulants along with Sr. Juliet Thevar had an exposure programme of the Dharavi slums. They were accompanied by Sr. Annie, belonging to the Congregation of the Helpers of Mary and her team of Social Workers. They got a full view of Dharavi slums that has about ten lakh population and is the biggest slum in Asia. These seven days were filled with enriched experiences with the poor in the city of Mumbai, as they walked rigorously through the narrow lanes of this vast spread area. They visited many families under poverty line, the sick, homebound people, prayed the Crown of Praises, spent time in listening and praying for them. They stayed in a chawl house and prepared their own meals before setting out for their day's mission. They had the opportunity of meeting people from different States, castes, languages, cultures and



also profession like the Pot makers, Kolis, Factory Labourers etc. They returned enriched having faced the realities of life. It was an enriching experience with the poor and their daily struggles of survival in a city like Mumbai.

12th February: The Sisters and the Postulants joined a half day session on 'Sing to heal' along with the sisters of the Fraternity of St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon. Dr. Evelett Sequeira, M.D., led them to understand how singing can heal the mind and body.

27th February and 20th March: The Postulants along with Sr. Juliet Thevar joined the Daughters of the Cross Novices and Postulants for two days workshop on 'Love yourself' conducted by Dr. Evelett Sequeira, at St. Joseph Novitiate, Bandra.

02nd March: Being the first Friday of the month, the Postulants along with Sr. Juliet spent a day in prayer and silence at Tabor Ashram, Kalyan.

07th March: The Postulants along with Sr. Matilda Pereira prayed the Stations of the Cross with the poor people at Santosh Nagar, Goregaon.

08th March: The Sisters and Formees celebrated with joy the 208th birth Anniversary of our Founder Fr. Raimundo. Sr. Mary Jane Viva conducted the prayer service and led the Community to reflect on the life of simplicity and poverty of Fr. Beirao. Recalling the love of Fr. Beirao for the poor the Sisters generously put their extra belongings in a "Lenten almsgiving box" a Lenten activity of the community. The Sisters went round Sucat distributing the packages made from their Lenten almsgiving and shared them with the street beggars, sweepers and vendors.



11th March: The Postulants performed a prayer dance at the graduation ceremony of the Inter Religious Dialogue Course at St. Pius Seminary, Goregaon.

14th March: The Postulants and the Sisters spent a day with the destitute at Mother Teresa Brothers Institute - Shantidaan, Borivali.

Apostolic Dynamism

Health Apostolate

08th February: Sr. Lucy Pereira accompanied one of the families from Barripada Village for check-up to Dr. Priti Kondhari, Dermatologist for a child suffering from skin rashes for the past thirteen years.

18th February: The Sisters of St. Clare Convent, Meghalaya, held a mobile clinic program at Marshillong village where the Sisters conducted a free medical check up and medicine to the poor and needy people.

04th March: A general health check-up camp was organized by the Sisters of Infant Jesus of Prague Convent, Manori at the dispensary of Libania Health Care Centre under the guidance of Dr. Ketan Bhatt. Sr. Korina Kini assisted the doctor. Nearly 90 patients benefitted from this camp.

25th March: The Sisters of Clara Niwas Convent, Bhopal, and the Community college staff and the students conducted health camps at Nitya Seva Society. Awareness on Breast and Cervical cancers was given to them through Power point presentation and the girls were examined for the symptoms of cancer. Around 60 girls benefitted from the camp. The same team also went to Leprosy Colony at Gandhi Nagar and 75 women and girls were given awareness. The sisters distributed soaps and hand wash solution to the affected families.

26th March: Sr. Jhansi Mary along with the team of staff and students went to Clara Niketan, Bhourie for the health camp to conduct awareness of cancer in women. The girls will be given proper guidance for investigation and treatment of the same and if need be help will be provided by V-guard industries, industrial partners of CHAI.



Diverse Pastoral / Spiritual Activities

03rd January: The Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada, went to Masupapda village along with the Self Help Group for women to discuss the possibility of a mobile clinic, The villagers find it difficult to get medicines as transport is a major problem. The sisters visited the people and told them that they would visit them once a week as they need medicine. The response of the people was amazing.

07th January: Sr. Catherine Rodrigues, Sr. Veronica Tuscano, the Staff members and a few women went for a one-day exposure programme where they visited a farm and got to know how to cultivate seasonal vegetables, plant and take care of fruit trees, and the organic farming methods which is healthy, nutritious and free of pesticide.

12th January: Sr. Korina Kini along with the members of the Legion of Mary visited St. Catherine Home for the Aged at Andheri and House of Charity at Versova. They spent the day with the orphans and distributed snacks to them.



24th January: ADA personal from Spain Mr. Claudio and Mr. Macario an Indian Project inspector visited the Project area where Sr. Veronica Tuscano is organising a project for health and awareness programme. Mr. Dayanand and Sr. Veronica Tuscano gave a brief information regarding ongoing project and thanked the staff and the women who attended this program.

28th January: Sr. Carol Godinho of St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, trained the junior legion group of St. Joseph Parish, Goregaon, for a dance on patriotic song for a competition held at Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem, Malad. They received the fourth prize for the performance.

31st January: Sr. Theresa D'Mello, Sr. Theresa D'Abreo and Sr. Lucy

Pereira went to Barripada and Khapripada village and conducted a meeting with the people as they have no electricity, no water pump and no land. They also visited the sick who need medical help. The Sisters spoke specially to the women regarding cultivation of their field and free scheme offers from the government.

07th and 23rd February: Sr. Archenjal Minj and Sr. Sushma Dushing conducted a programme at Shatmoied and Umjarain villages where they spent time with people praying with them, sharing their joys and sorrows.

08th February: Sr. Mary Jane Viva and Sr. Melanie Malazarte participated in the Graduation ceremony of the preschool children in Rosalie Rendu Development Centre where they offer voluntary service. Sr. Melanie Malazarte delivered an inspiring message to the students and parents. The centre head appreciated and thanked the sisters for their selfless service to the children.

10th February: Sr. Melanie Malazarte and Sr. Mary Jane Viva started offering special catechesis for the children preparing for first Holy Communion at Puork 6, Tramo, every Saturday. These children will be sponsored by the parish for their First Holy Communion as they come from poor families.

11th February: Sr. Fatima Menezes conducted the rosary in the parish after the Eucharist offering it for the sick. Each decade was offered for people suffering from different illnesses. The Sisters also visited the sick in Mengusi Hospital and a Home for the Aged and distributed some cookies to them.

03rd March: Sr. Korina Kini and Sr. Josephine Anthony accompanied a few parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Manori to different churches at Igatpuri, Nasik and devotedly participated in the Way of the cross.

06th March: As a Lenten sacrifice, the Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada, visited the village of Barripada, to distribute sugar, dal, wheat flour, and biscuits to more than 45 families.

11th March: Women's day was celebrated at Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada. The theme for the celebration was "Care for creation". The Sisters brought an awareness in the women on how important a woman



is in today's world. The programme consisted of a meaningful prayer service with a powerpoint. The resource person, Mrs. Harshala Dumada spoke to the crowd on the Women's Right. More than 280 women participated in it. Dance and skits were performed by the villagers. After lunch, as a token of love and remembrance, stainless steel plates were given to all. The women were grateful to the Sisters for making them feel special.

11th March: Being the Lenten season, the youth of St. Dominic Savio Parish along with the Sisters of Shanti Bhavan Convent, Indiranagar, organised a Taize service for the parishioners and for the youth of the other parishes. It was a prayerful moment with praise, worship and intercessions. It was a very touching and healing experience.



14th March: The Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada along with people of Dongripada, Khapripada, Masupada, Dulsanpada, Numberpada, Kawsypada and Bhonnerpada villages participated in the Way of the cross all round the different churches of the Talasari taluka.

11th March: The Sisters of Clara Niwas Convent, Bhopal, visited Karuna Sadan - Home for the Aged and Destitute run by the Archdiocese. The sisters distributed rice, cereals and sugar as part of their Lenten sacrifice.



17th March: Sr. Blossom Gonsalves along with the parishioners of St Jude of Thaddeus participated in the Visita Iglesia. They visited seven Churches of north Rizal province. This was sponsored by Miss Divina Ignacio one of the League members.

18th March: Sr. Anna D'Abreo along with the youth of St. Joseph Cathedral parish visited Prem Niwas, a home for the dying and destitute run by the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. They put up an entertainment programme and helped the inmates to cut hair, shave, pair nails and served lunch. They also sang songs and played games with the inmates. It was an enriching experience.



21st March: Sr. Theresa Fernandes and Sr. Theresa Chavan visited two orphanages in Nashik Road, run by the Fatima Sisters. Sisters spoke to the forty girls and distributed sweets and clothes for all. The Sisters also visited Dev Mata Sadan's orphanages; Here, they spoke to sixty six orphans and distributed sweets.

22nd March: Women's day was celebrated with joy at Haven for the Elderly. The celebration began with an opening prayer by Sr. Blossom Gonsalves followed by inspiring message on women by Miss Hayde Dinglasa the Center head. Singing and dance was performed by selected older persons. At the end of the program all the female staff, the Sisters and clients were given a token of love and appreciation.

Educational Apostolate

19th and 25th January: The Hockey team of Convent Girls' High School, Prabhadevi, won at the Inter-school tournament.

01st February: St. Patrick High School, Devlali, organized an educational trip for the students of Std. IX and X to 'Mukt Jeevan Ashram' at Shahapur, Thane. They visited the Home for the Aged, orphanage, hospital for leprosy and AIDS (HIV) patients. Games and entertainment programme were organized by the students. The students, teachers and school donated various items of daily necessities as an act of charity.



02nd and 03rd February: 45 students along with the Staff of Convent Girls' High School, Prbhadevi, cleaned the Versova Beach. There was a talk on the beach by Mr. Afroz Shah on how to reduce and recycle waste. Ms. Rutuja spoke about the eco club activities of the school which was well appreciated.



21st February: Students of Std. VIII of St. Elizabeth High School, Holi, Vasai, participated in a rally organised by the school 'To save Mother Earth' in order to create awareness among the people through posters and slogans.





Assistance to the Elderly

12th February: Dr. Evlette Sequeira from Khandivali, conducted a session on self transformative ‘Sing and Heal’ for the elderly sisters of St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon. It was a very enriching and healing experience for the sisters.

14th March: “The United Baynihan” a group of retired professional with the help of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Tanay, Philippines, organized a Lenten recollection for the elderly of the Haven for the Elderly at the Centre Chapel. The recollection was presided by Rev. Fr. Jun from Our Lady of Assumption parish, Manila.

19th March: The Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph with the residents of Assisi Bhavan with great joy. They also participated in the meaningful Triduum.

20th March: The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Tanay, arranged for confessions for the Elderly at the centre. Rev. Fr. Boboy of Holy Cross Church, Baras, Tanay, was invited for the same. Fr. Boboy gave guidelines on how to make confession. He also blessed the sick and the elderly.



27th March: A Lenten activity, “Visita Iglesia” was organized by the Sisters for the elderly. Around thirteen elderly and ten staff members joined this activity. They visited seven churches around Tanay town and prayed the Station of the Cross and offered prayers. All the participants had a prayerful experience.



Blessed Maria Clara of the Child Jesus

02nd January: In honour of the 175th Birth Anniversary of Blessed Mother Maria Clara, the Sisters of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi,



organised a get-together for the street children. They conducted a few games and offered snacks and gifts to every child present.

07th January: Ration was provided to the

villagers in honor of Blessed Maria Clara by the Sisters of Prem Daan Convent, Dongripada.

08th January: The league members of the village gathered together in the chapel of Prem Daan Convent and prayed the crown of Praises to Mother Clara and prayed for the needs and the families of the village.

26th January: On the occasion of Province day, the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, Valsad, organized the Eucharist for the members of the league and Fasfhic, followed by a fellowship gathering. Sr. Maria Victoria Gonsalves presented a powerpoint on the mission activities done by the different houses in our Province. Many of the participants expressed their eagerness to join and commit themselves as Fasfhic members.

10th February: Sr. Carmelina Vales, Sr. Gloria Manbhat and Rev. Fr. Joe Gonsalves



SJ accompanied 18 youth of Ashagad to St. Joseph's Convent, Goregaon to visit Blessed Mother Clara's Exhibition and Home for the Aged. They danced with the inmates and increased their joy with their presence. They prayed together to Blessed Mother Clara for the needs of the world. The youth were very happy since some of them went to Bombay first time. They all joined in a fellowship meal and later visited the seminary at Goregaon.

10th February: The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Tanay along with the league members held an outreach program for the 25 poor families of Aguahu, in honour of Blessed Maria Clara. at St. Anthony de Padua Chapel. Mrs. Mago and Mrs. Rubis spoke about the life of Blessed Maria Clara in the local language and also explained to the people the purpose of the program. Gifts contributed by the league members as well as the elderly were distributed to all. The Sisters propagated the devotion to Blessed Maria Clara to them and many of them registered as league members. The Sisters thanked all the people and also visited few families in that area.



02nd March: In collaboration with the Legion of Mary of the parish of Our Lady of Salvation Dadar, the Sisters of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prabhadevi, along with a few Fashic members joined in the walking pilgrimage to Mount Mary Church, Bandra. The people joined in



the devotion of praying the crown of praises and prayer for the canonization of Blessed Mother Maria Clara. The Eucharistic celebration at the Mount was also offered for the speedy canonization of the Foundress.

05th March: Sr. Leopoldine Miranda was invited as resource person for the Fasfhic meeting at St. Joseph Convent, Goregaon, organized by Sr. Afra D'Souza and Sr. Mary Chettiar. With the help of the power point presentation Sr. Leopoldina explained the life of Mother Clara and the formation regarding the permanent commitment to the members.



13th March: Sr. Mina

Rebello and Sr. Brinal Fereira attended a prayer meeting along with the members of the Legion of Mary at the convent premises where Sr. Brinal Fereira gave a talk to them on "Conversion" and spoke about Blessed Mother Clara.

20th March: Sr. Veronica Dushing and Sr. Theresa D'Abreo accompanied twenty League members for a day's outreach programme at Dahanu. They visited the churches at Dahanu and Nupad where they prayed Mother Clara's Crown of praises and visited some families. They contemplated on the passion of Christ with the help of a session by Fr. Johny Nigrel



followed by the screening of the movie. This was followed by a fellowship lunch.

Meetings, Seminars, Programmes

03rd to 06th January: Sr. Leopoldina Miranda, Sr. Barbara Ann Desmond and Sr. Juliet Thevar attended a Seminar for Formators on the theme “Nurturing a wider perspective in formation” organized by the Western region Conference of Religious of India at JDV Pune, from 4th to 6th January 2018. Rev. Fr. George Cordeiro SJ and Rev. Fr. S. M. Michael SVD were the resource persons. The seminar helped the Sisters to reflect on the issues of Human Formation of candidates to Consecrated Life, Inclusiveness in formation and on-going formation.

07th February: Sr. Maria Waghmare attended the Youth Meeting at Baruch organized by the Baroda diocese. Being the year of the Youth, they drew up activities for the youth.

02nd and 03rd March: Sr. Anita Vaz and Sr. Magdalene Parlekar attended a seminar on Personal Growth “to launch into the deep” organized under the guidance of Fr. Aloysius Noronha OFM Cap, at St. Fidelis Ashram, Lucknow. Father suggested some points to be a happy religious - Count your blessings, be grateful always, and practice the spirituality of the child like wonder. It was an enriching experience.



18th March: The Sisters of the communities in Mumbai attended a Seminar on Youth of Today organised by the CRI unit of Mumbai at Canossa Convent School, Mahim. Rev. Fr. Ryan Alex, Youth Director, gave an insight through a power point presentation on the problems and challenges that the youth face today. The youth need discernment, accompaniment and inclusiveness. Cardinal Oswald Gracias also graced the occasion with his presence and shared his reflection on the youth.

22nd March: Sr. Marjorie Caldeira, Sr. Fatima Menezes, Sr. Velankanni Metilda and Sr. Queenie Anna Fernandes participated in the Colloquium

organised by the Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Stanislaus Fernandes, S.J. at Bishop's House, Vadodara. The issues taken up by the CBCI were discussed at length. The diocese has taken up two challenges: Constitution of India and the Youth. Evangelisation could be done connecting the Constitution of the country with the Gospel.

Course Completed

14th March: It was a day of joy and success as the Postulants Jurgie Magondaya and Noralyn Magondaya completed the two year Basic Formation Program with honors at the Pastoral Institute for Vocation Ministry, Paranaque. Sr. Sapna Colaco accompanied them for their graduation program which included the Holy Mass, Graduation Ceremony followed by an agape.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.



10th January: Mr. Peter, 75 years, Brother of Sr. Ubaldina Coelho

25th January: Mr. Alleuia, 48 years, Brother of Sr. Veronica Tuscano

07th February: Mr. Susairaj, 65 years, Father of Sr. Velankanni Metilda

25th February: Mrs. Elizabeth, 86 years, Sister of Sr. Pauline Pereira

16th March: Mr. Hubert, 86 years, Brother of Sr. Maureen Fonseca