



Mother Anna Huberta Roggendorf
Founder of the Society of Helpers of Mary

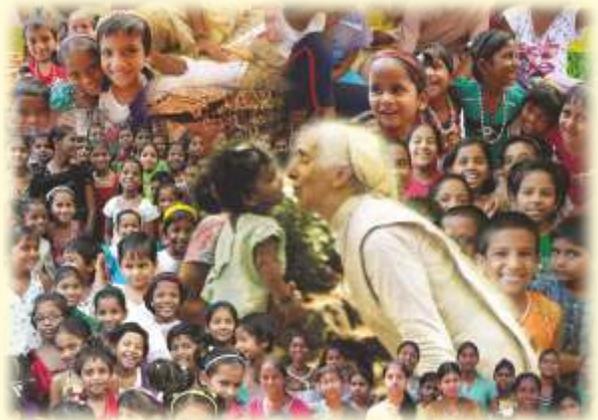
Igniting **Sparks**

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JULY 2016

Remembering Mother Anna Huberta

A beautiful life doesn't just happen. It is built daily by prayer, humility, hard work, sacrifice and love. Mother Anna Huberta's was one such beautiful life. For the ordinary people, she was a little lamp. For the abandoned children, she was a shelter. For the troubled mothers she was comfort. Poor Children's tears and pain touched her deeply and she became their mother. On 4th July 2016, we commemorate the 44th death anniversary of this great visionary.



As young missionary she came to India and worked in the sprawling city of Mumbai. In the aftermath of Indian independence, poverty and communal hatred spread its wings in and around the city. Destitute mothers and abandoned babies filled the streets. Mother Anna Huberta reached out to them with Christ like compassion. She spent the nights in prayer and day in service. Seeing this, some girls came to help Mother and they became the first Helpers of Mary. Today we are the heirs to the rich charisma left behind by Mother Anna Huberta. We can see the hand of God who called mother to love the unloved. 75 years since then, Marys are unstoppable, like the seed which became a tree our institute grew and stretched out its branches.

As we remember our Founder, let us resolve once again to follow the footsteps that she left behind, to grasp the high ideals she lived for, the vision and values that inspired her to found us.

"If you want to discover yourself, spend your life in the service of others" said Mahatma Gandhi. What makes a human being great is the belief that in this big world, small people can do something in their own way and do it with love and passion. Mother Anna Huberta has done it! It's our turn now!

*Sr. Stella Devassy
Superior General*



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Mother Priscilla F.C.

Of late we are tempted often to speak about the 'present' which is very good, but I feel it is important to speak of our past too, especially of the sisters who have helped us tremendously. Today the person who comes to my mind strongly is none other than our dear Mother Priscilla F.C., who worked in St. Catherine's Home. She is like Pope Francis, full of love, kindness and mercy. We wish her a very Happy Birthday on the 8th of July.

Fr. Neuner S.J. speaks of her so beautifully in his book 'Mother Anna Huberta'. Sr. Priscilla was closely and for the longest time associated with Mother Anna Huberta. She was ten years older and died twelve years after Mother Anna Huberta's death. It would seem to me that somehow through her own life she embraced the life of Mother. She was quiet, soft, infinitely patient, hardworking, persevering, great helper and supporter. She was drawn into the dynamism of Mother Anna Huberta and committed herself totally to her work. Occasionally she had been a speedbreaker on the roads of Mother; sometimes she cooled down the Pentecostal fire when it burnt too bright and hot. But never would be a hindrance to her zeal. When all the glory of a young, flourishing Institution fell on Mother Anna Huberta, Sr. Priscilla remained in the background and rejoiced in all her success. She consciously and joyfully accepted her supporting role and gave herself unreservedly to the service of sisters and children, such was the beauty of her nature.



The Marys saw the spirit of their Mother embodied in her and to whom they could turn to her in every situation. Mother was assured that Sr. Priscilla would be there with Marys in her absence and it was surely a source of consolation to her during her last months before she went into coma. I am certain that all who knew Sr. Priscilla are grateful to her and feel sure of her intercession and prayers that we keep the spirit and Charism of our Congregation, to be faithful Marys till the end.

Sr. Shalini Kamath SHM, Andheri, Mumbai

CALLED TO REACH OUT IN MERCY

31st May 2016, on the feast of Visitation, 5 of our Novices took their First Profession which was a daring step to live the Charism and Vision of our Foundress Mother Anna Huberta. Heartfelt congratulations to newly Professed Sisters Ambrita Sobhasunder, Jyoti Palluri, Merline Hembram, Suprava Joseph and Sumitra Saha.

It was a memorable day in the lives of these 5 young sisters, as they walked along with their parents to the altar to offer themselves to God through the service of humanity, which was witnessed by a great crowd of sisters, family members, friends and religious. The theme "Called to reach out in mercy and compassion" invited us to reflect on God's mercy. Rev. Fr. Vernon D'Cunha SJ, the Provincial of Mumbai Province, the main celebrant of the day helped to reflect on the Evangelical Vows which will draw us closer to God. It is true that everyone is called to reach out, but what makes a religious life unique and



special, is that we are called to reach out in mercy.

We congratulate them and assure them of our prayers. We wish that they find joy and fulfillment as well as receive many blessings as they give themselves to the service of God and His Church!

Sparks Team



Wonders at Mandvi Mission

Since 1991, Helpers of Mary is working in Mandvi mission for the upliftment of tribal community through education, empowering women, and income generation projects along with MSFS Fathers. Being a politically and communally sensitive area the sisters faced many challenges, difficulties and even risked their life during the course of last 24 years. One of perennial problems that we faced was the issue of the land. We lived and worked on a tribal land that was owned by Mr. Dilip. He kept threatening us to vacate the land or give lump sum money. We had almost decided to pull out of Mandvi. Having worked for many years, and still serving 1500 women, it was really a tuff decision. However there was a dramatic turn of events. We were told by the collectorate that after paying the tax as per the government valuation, we can convert the tribal land into general land and we could actually own the land. The government was also aware of the yeomen services the sisters over the years had rendered to the villages of Mandvi. The General Council decided to procure the land. But little we realised that it will bring such stress and trouble.

The road ahead isn't easy neither impossible. We have to strive, as Bhagavad Gita states "Thy right is to work only, but never to its fruits". Sr. Amrita and myself took up the task of getting this land. We met Collector of Nanded and with his permission we regularized 16 Guntas of land after paying the necessary tax. Government and other well-wishers of the sisters forced Mr. Dilip to give it as gift for the sisters. When the stage was set for the registration of the property, we realised that Mr. Dilip killed his wife and was in prison. The only way forward was to get him out on bail and he in turn signs the papers. It took 24 days of prayer, hardwork, perseverance and travel. Being a murder case, many told that it will be difficult. Fathers from Adilabad assisted us and through local police & lawyer, we met him in Jail. Upon seeing us Mr. Dilip wept bitterly, for the past 11 months no one came to visit him. He said "I am a sinner, and I have realized my mistakes; take me out from here and I am ready to sign any papers". It was a very painful moment. After completing all the formalities, he was released on bail on 24th May and on the same evening we registered the land in the name of Mukhta Jivan society. His mother, sister-in-law and others were also present in the office to sign the documents as well as to witness this. He was under trial but now free to move around. A new beginning for him. For Divya Jyothi Mandvi too, it heralded a new beginning. It was truly a noble gesture in this year of mercy to show a glimpse of God's mercy and pardon to Dilip. We are truly grateful to Sr. Stella our Superior General, sisters of Mandvi, Generalate and all the others whose prayerful support was vital towards this intention.

Srs. Reshmi Almeida Shm & Amrita Jose Shm

St. Monica Convent - New Community



Being the Platinum Jubilee Year, Helpers of Mary opened its 68th centre at Lourdegiri in the District of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu on 13th June 2016. The centre is named after St. Monica, in remembrance of Sr. Monica, one of the pioneer sisters. The convent was blessed by Most Rev. V. Jeromedhas SDB, Bishop of Kuzhithurai and inaugurated by Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy shm, Superior General in the presence of Sr. Rohini D'Costa, the Provincial Superior of St. Francis Xavier Province. The occasion was graced by priests, sisters of SHM, parishioners of Nagacode and Lourdegiri. The blessing was followed by meaningful Eucharistic celebration and felicitation. We thank Fr. Christopher the Parish Priest of Lourdegiri, Sr. Naveena and sisters of Nagacode for facilitating the entire process. We wish Srs. Elsa and Meghna, the first members of the community to witness the Charism of SHM in Lourdegiri parish.

St. Francis Xavier Province

Making Choices in Life



On 18th June 2016, we, 8 candidates entered 1st year Postulancy. It was a day of joy. The nature came to greet us with the gentle showers of blessings. In the spirit of our Foundress Mother Anna Huberta, and the Motto of the Congregation "Live for Love" we were happy to make this choice of spending our lives for giving life to others. Fr. Franklyn Mathias, the parish priest of St. Blaise Parish, said in his homily that "we cannot serve both, God and money, we have to make a choice in life" and we the young hearts have made a firm choice of serving God, which is not for a day but for life time. We thank God for all those who accompanied, inspired, encouraged and motivated us very specially our dear parents.

Alma, Francisca, Mamta, Nivedita, Prativa Minz, Prativa Kulu, Sapana & Ursella (1st year Postulants)

Achievements in Board Exams

We are happy that this year the children in our residential care homes did well in their board exams for 10th & 12th class.

RESULTS OF SHM CHILDREN'S HOME - 2015-2016

S.NO	CENTRE	10 th		12 th		PERCENTAGE
		APPEARED	PASSED	APPEARED	PASSED	
1	Shanti Dhama, Gundoli	4	3	2	0	50%
2	Anugraha, Gundibala	1	1	-	-	100%
3	Asha Sadan, Waliv	4	4	-	-	100%
4	Maria Sadan, Nirmal	1	1	1	1	100%
5	Prem Sadan, Madh Island	1	1	3	3	100%
6	Sneha Deep, Varanasi	-	-	10	10	100%
7	Premanjali, Mysore	-	-	6	1	16%
8	Anand Niwas, Shevgaon	2	2	-	-	100%
9	Mukta Jivan, Vehloli	7	7	-	-	100%
10	Snehagiri, Gangangaon	1	1	14	14	100%
11	Ma-Niketan, Thane	20	18	10	10	93%
12	Bal Bhavan, Andheri	13	13	9	9	100%
13	Balwatika, Dadra	14	8	8	4	54%
14	Naya Jivan, Assangaon	19	9	10	10	65%
15	Maria Sadan, Dapada	13	12	-	-	92%
16	Nitya Seva, Rivona	9	7	4	2	69%
17	Prem Ashram, Dumrikhas	1	1	-	-	100%
18	Anand Vihar Tilaknagar	2	2	-	-	100%
	Total	112	90	77	64	81%

Sparks extend Congratulations to all the students who secured good percentage and wishing you all the best for your future career. We also highly appreciate all the care takers for their efforts and commitment in assisting them all through the year

The joy of our Vocation



God calls and proposes us to serve him, and we are free to accept or reject it. We, 9 young girls coming from different parts of India accepted God's call and eagerly preparing ourselves to offer in the service of the Lord. **11th June 2016** was a remarkable day for us as we joined the 2nd year Postulancy, the initial stage of training.

We had a prayer service imploring God's graces on us. While we prayed at the tomb of Mother Anna Huberta we experienced the vibration of her love and spirit. Rev. Fr. Vivian Pinto encouraged us through his homily that Jesus called His disciples to go and proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. In the same manner we too are chosen by the Lord to work for His Kingdom. We treasure the memories of this day forever.

Anjali, Joselina, Kiran, Kosesav, Nancia, Reshma, Sarita, Sweedal & Velencia (2nd year Postulants)

Summer camp for the children

When children are around there is joy, laughter and lots of fun. Sisters of Snehalya organized a week-long summer camp, from 22nd – 28th May 2016 for the children from nearby villages. For our surprise children came in large numbers in spite of burning heat of the summer. 180 children participated in the camp and it focused on various topics like health and hygiene, importance of education, environment, moral teachings, Yoga, general knowledge and career guidance. Each day new resource person took up the topic. The day began with Yoga. Children were given time to play games and Antakshari which were the moments of great joy and enthusiasm. They were taught by creative ways by utilizing poetries, action songs and stories which helped them develop their confidence. They too had cleanliness drive and exposure to the garden in order to teach them to preserve environment and every child promised to plant trees in their surroundings. Children were delighted to have food and snacks every day. On the last day of the camp, children shared their experience and learnings of entire week and concluded by thanking God for the success of the camp.

Sr. Snehal SHM Jafarganj, Uttar Pradesh

Thank you



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his generosity.