



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

# Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 2018

## KERALA FLOOD RELIEF ACTIVITY

From late July – August 2018, Kerala was hit by a devastating flood and landslides, caused by unusually high levels of rainfall. This flooding was one of the worst in Kerala; more than 400 people lost their lives, paralyzing normal life of millions of people, lakhs of people have been affected and thousands of victims are in desperate need of relief supplies.

The Helpers of Mary were quick to respond in this critical situation. Our hearts went out to those families who lost their Homes and dear ones. From Andheri, in collaboration with the Harmony foundation we instantly sent 2000 kgs of relief materials like food grains, nutritious biscuits, clothes, blankets, bed sheets, towels, sanitary pads etc. In Collaboration with Kalyan Diocese we again sent food materials and other consumables items. The need and requirement is huge, so once again we collaborated with the Harmony Foundation to send 10,000 kg of various items. We will continue this distribution campaign at whatever level we can. Sr. Stella visited some of the areas and camps in Alleppey and assisted the Sisters to reach out to the people. The Sisters are continually visiting the areas and trying to assist them, as the people are returning back to their homes.

A heartfelt thanks to Sr. Stella Devassy, Superior General for the compassionate and quick response to human suffering and to all our dear Friends for generously offering your support. Your kindness, love and generosity helped to light up their shattered lives.

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**Sr. Regina Joseph SHM, Generalate, Andheri**



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED



15th August - This Independence Day celebration was a lovely way to bring together everyone in Shradha Vihar and encouraged a feeling of patriotism, coupled with lot of fun. To keep the spirit of Independence Day alive, the children of Bal Bhavan organized a small program with great zeal and pomp. We remembered the great leaders of our country who sacrificed their lives and our freedom fighters too.

We were blessed to have in our midst Mrs. Mukta Fadtare, a lady Police Inspector and Mr. Sachin Shinde, the Police Inspector of Amboli Police Station. Mr. Sachin Shinde delivered a speech about our country and our responsibility towards it. Inspector Mrs. Mukta shared her life experience as a lady police, her joy of serving the police department and motivating children. The bigger girls requested her to explain to them the procedure of enrolling into the Police Force, as two of the girls have a great desire to become Police Women. Mrs. Mukhta was happy to hear this and she explained to them the process and examination that they have to pass. She appreciated the SHM Congregation and the Sisters for the well maintained home and to see happy, healthy and active children. She also told us that when they entered the orphanage they got a glimpse of the bright faces of the girls and saw their eyes shining in excitement, they were struck quite pleasantly by the strong positive vibes in this home".

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**Sr. Yvette Gomes SHM, Bal bhavan, Andheri**



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## THE BLIND HAVE VISION

This is very true, as it was a most memorable day on July 07, 2018 when we three Sisters and six Staff of St. Mary's Centre, Kinwat, visited the blind school at Bodhadi in commemoration of Mother Anna Huberta's death anniversary. The blind school in Bodhadi is the first blind school in the whole of Maharashtra. Sr. Shubha spoke about our women empowerment program, reaching out to the needy, nursery classes etc in Kinwat village, Sr. Teresa shared the various struggles of the poor people and Sr. Rachana shared the life of Mother Anna Huberta as to how she has been an instrument in enhancing the lives of the poor children, HIV +ve children, the lepers and the unfortunate ones. One of our animator's son Venkatesh who is in this blind school, warmly welcomed us along with their co-ordinator Mr. Mhatre. It was very inspiring to see these blind boys and girls grow up in mutual trust and understanding. They grow with a vision and have this desire to flourish in their lives. We saw these children bubbling with joy, very enthusiastic and energetic.

It was a heart throbbing experience seeing these blind children play the tabala, harmonium and singing so melodiously. They were seated in such an orderly manner much better than the children with eyesight. The older boys very delicately made chairs with plastic wires. It was very touching to see how each boy or girl recognized their own places where they are supposed to sit for meals. They recognize their own friends and felt very much indebted to the caretakers. Their caretakers are very kind and polite to them. These blind children reside in the hostel, complete their education in Braille system and in extra-curricular activities such as plastic wire bags, flower vases, chairs and so on. After their 8<sup>th</sup> standard they continue residing there and pursue their further education from the Normal school. *"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision"*. Truly, our hearts pondered as we interacted with these children without physical vision but who have a vision for their lives. How fortunate are we who have a physical vision yet at times lack vision in our lives. May Mother Anna Huberta intercede for us to 'Live for Love' thus we be soaked in the love of Christ and be Zealous in our Mission.

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**Srs. Shubha, Teresa & Rachana, St. Mary's Centre, Kinwat**

On the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan which was celebrated all over India on August 26, 2018, Sr. Mathilda Fernandes SHM along with her women's group visited the DN Nagar Police Station and Versova Police Station and tied Rakhi on the wrist of the officers on duty reminding them that we, as sisters are praying for their Health, Prosperity and well being and like their own Sisters, we the Ladies and Girls of the Society are also depending on them for our safety and protection. They were touched by our kind gesture and it reflected in their smiles. They thanked us and promised us that they will always be there for us. It was a wonderful experience for us too.

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**Ms. Fidelia, Amboli Parish, Andheri**

## RED DAY



In the year 1986 the pioneers of Vadtal Mission began this Nursery with the poor children of this neighborhood. It was with the request of late Rev. Fr. Terrance SJ in one of the classroom of the Mission School with 40 kids. Since then it continued until today. Those kids who had a good foundation and values have grown up and are working as Principal, Tutors, Nurses, Office Employees in Media, Insurance Office etc. They shared their experiences and spoke of the Sisters who taught them. This year we have 34 students who are in Gujarati Kindergarten. We celebrated 'RED DAY' at Bal-Mandir. Sr. Neelam and the teachers prepared the children with a small program. The parents supported and all the children came with red outfit and red color fruits. The Program began with an introduction about the positive and negative aspect of the red color. The Children enjoyed the day in the company of Sisters and Staff. We concluded the program by sharing the fruits with the Children and Sisters.

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**Sr. Anegha, Sandhya Deep, Vadtal**

## RAKSHA BANDHAN





# GETTING CHILDREN TO "GO GREEN"

On the occasion of the world nature conservation day and commemoration of 109<sup>th</sup> birth Anniversary of Mother Anna Huberta, we organized a cultural program. Mother Anna Huberta was a lover of nature and she was always close to the children. The Children staged a program, which was focused on the life of Mother Anna Huberta and beginning of our Congregation. The skit which spoke about the care of nature. The chief guest Mr. Kedar Gazmir, the Governor of Lions Club was impressed by the message and the commendable work of the Sisters. He encouraged the children to study well and also promised his support to the home.

The children of Premankur were motivated to plant trees in the Campus. Mr. Kadji Babu, the Officer of the Forest Department, inaugurated the occasion by planting a tree. In his message he said the importance of planting, eco-centrism should be the core value of our society. Emphasis was given not only on tree plantation, but also on all activities, which improves the overall quality of our atmosphere. He said that it is our moral responsibility to pass on the rich natural heritage to our children and make them learn the significance of the components of the nature. 150 saplings were given by Mr. Kadji Babu which was

planted. As each child planted two saplings and promised to look after them till they leave our home. This way, they will generate the oxygen that we need and also pass on the legacy to the new comers which will give a better clean green and safe environment for the near future !

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**Sr. Pinky Saha SHM**, Premankur, West Bengal



## THEOLOGY STUDIES

Studying theology allows you to explore how religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in. It was a challenge when I started my class as a first year student of Theology. The second year was interesting with the help of God who is ever faithful to His children. Theology means the study about God but actually it is not study about God. We cannot study about God but we can only study about the work of God and the many people who had the experience about the work of God in their life. By taking up this study I felt I am really growing in faith.

The Theologate follows the two semester system in a year and most of the subjects had an oral exam. I had to understand everything that had been taught to us, as I would not know what questions the examiner would ask me. But it helped me to read more and understand not only for exam but for life too. I have almost completed twenty subjects.

As I have completed these two years I feel proud of my Congregation who gave me this opportunity to learn. I thank Sr. Stella Devassy, the Superior General and her councilors, Sr. Suma, Regional Superior and her councilors and all the sisters who helped me directly and indirectly. Above all, I thank God who is my shelter, helps me in every challenge, difficulty, and ups and downs of life.

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**Sr. Martha Lodamo SHM**, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

## International Day of Older persons

International World Senior Citizens Day was celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Shradha community center, Andheri. It was celebrated to honor the elderly people and to bring smile on their faces. Sr. Chaya organized a wonderful evening for the elders with help of Women leaders from self help groups. Sr Bibiana, Superior of Mother house community gave an inspiring message to our elderly people and appreciated them for their love and affection. Various special performances were organized to pay tribute to them and to entertain them by the children and Sisters. Around 200 senior citizens from neighboring slum participated in the celebration. Thankfully, we received an overwhelming support from their family members, neighbors to bring them to our centre. As a token of love and appreciation they were given a blanket, towel and food grains. 'We are praying for all the Sisters, you always stay blessed' these words of blessings came from some of the older women. Dear Sr. Stella, thank you! We are carrying these activities for the poor elders with the support provided by you. Thank you for your guidance, encouragement and continuous generous support.

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**Sr. Chaya Martin**, Shradha Vihar, Andheri.



# FROM LITTLE PARADISE TO HEAVENLY PARADISE

Humanly speaking, death is final. It is the end. No more laughter, no more tears, no more friendship, no more insights, no more leadership, no more wisdom. The tearing of the temple veil into two expresses the finality of death. On the other hand, one of the core beliefs of Christians is that death is not final, but transitional. We believe that life continues in a new transformed way. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.

On August 24, 2018, at 09.45 pm. the journey of this earthly life of Sr. Krupa Dabre came to an end, while the Sisters were all around her, she peacefully drifted into eternity. Sr. Krupa was born on February 08, 1932 at Nirmal Wagholi, Vasai. She made her Temporary Profession on February 02, 1963 and her Perpetual Profession in 1971. For the last 55 years she rendered her service of love at Andheri, Nirmal and Assangaon. The last one year of her life she spent in Shraddha Vihar. She blessed all those who visited her with her radiant smiles.

Today we say goodbye to Sr. Krupa the youngest of five siblings of Mr. Inas and Mrs. Juliana Dabre. Mother Anna Huberta will truly embrace her beloved daughter, the Marys will remember a great lover of nature and animals, the children of Assangaon will miss a grandmother, the workers in the farm will miss a mother and we here in Shraddha Vihar will miss the sweet smile that she always wait to give in the mornings.

She was like the wise virgins of the Gospel parable: her lamp was always burning brightly with the oil of her good works. Her whole life was other centered, used all her strength to make this a reality. She was a cheerful giver, which she expressed in her giving without expecting any reward. And we are grateful for her enthusiasm, for her generosity, and for her self giving spirit till the end of her life.

The Children in Assangaon received her motherly care through her life of service. She dearly loved her family, to whom we extend our deep sympathy; your presence here today is a testimony of who she was and of your great love for her. But her eyes and heart were always fixed on

what is beyond our understanding, the Face of God. St Paul says, "her outer self wasting away, her inner self being renewed day by day." (2 Cor 4:16). Our lovely Sister Krupa, throughout her 86 years on this earth always, and with great courage, walked by faith, not by sight, is now at home in that house not made by hands but is eternal in heaven.

She was very close to the nature. In Assangaon and Andheri she worked in the farm. She tilled the ground, sowed seeds, added manure, watered, pruned the plants and gently plucked the fruits. She took utmost care of the animals. She had wider concern about the well-being of every animal in the farm and she called each one by name. She did a fantastic job and added joy in the community where she lived and the people whom she encountered. Thousands especially children enjoyed the fruits of her hard labour. She provided daily milk, eggs and chickens the best nutritious food for growing children.

Her trust in God strengthened as she faced the challenges of each day. Every morning she would be the first person to reach the chapel. She was a prayerful, zealous woman touched as she led others to the Lord. We will not forget you Sr. Krupa, your smile which radiated peace.

Today, we commend the soul of Sr. Krupa to the Lord confident that he will receive her into eternal life. At the same time, we ask the Lord to comfort us and all who mourn. May Jesus, who wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus, strengthen us in our grief.

Sr. Stella Devassy, our Superior General offered her heartfelt condolences to the family members and all those who mourn for Sr. Krupa.

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**Sr. Leela Sequeira SHM, Generalate, Andheri**

*(Introduction given for the funeral Mass of Sr. Krupa Dabre on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2018 by Sr. Leela Sequeira, the Assistant General)*



## ***Being Marys Always.....***

Being Marys always....  
Our mission at the service of the world

We take God's love to untrodden paths.  
Where no one dares to go  
We live a daring and challenging life  
Trusting God's providence alone

We faithfully preserve our Charism  
We respond to call of Christ  
Reaching out to those yet unreached  
Giving hope and new lease of life

Mother Mary the model of our life  
She is standard and norm for us  
We imitate her virtues  
Our patron and sure guide

What a great vocation is ours today  
To be another Mary, like our founder  
To touch the helpless, sick, and broken lives  
And making God's presence alive  
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**Sr. Marina Soares shm, Agra**