



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

# Igniting **Sparks**

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

## Golden Years

Jubilees remind us of God's unconditional love. The SHM family has chosen this day, February 02, 2020 to celebrate the gift of our 10 sisters: **Sr. Asha, Sr. Jaishree, Sr. Kusum, Sr. Satyaben, Sr. Sugandani, Sr. Shakuntala, Sr. Sadhana, Sr. Ulhasini, Sr. Valsa and Sr. Vidya** who celebrated their Golden Jubilee. We gratefully thanked the greatness of the Lord and pondered at the wonders God has done in the lives of our sisters for the past 50 golden years of grace. An important aspect of the Religious life is the celebration of milestones, such as silver and golden jubilees of religious profession. This is a time of remembrance, rejoicing, rejuvenating and renewing the commitment that has been such an important part of the life of the sisters and the congregation. We thank them with a sincere heart for sharing their life with us and being part of SHM family. We thank the Almighty Lord for the beautiful gift of their vocation to this institution and for the church. We acknowledge and celebrate their dedication and commitment through these many years. We express our love, appreciation and thanks to our dear Sisters for all that they have accomplished in the Vineyard of the Lord, in different places and to people of various Cultures.

### Hearty Congratulations!



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Sr. Regina Joesph SHM, Generalate, Andheri



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## Seminar on self Development

A Seminar was conducted for two days for the children of Balbhavan on self development. The Resource Person was Fr. Rocky. During this session he introduced group activities, action songs and screened motivating videos. Every group was assigned with group tasks. The Resource Person provided newspapers and asked the girls to make maximum items to create a story out of it. This group task taught the group to utilize minimum things to maximum benefits. This was to build their self-confidence and assist them to become creative person. The girls were inspired by a video film where a blind girl was singing and while she sang she recognized the chords of the playing instruments. This taught the girls that nothing is impossible in life on Earth. The word impossible says "I am Possible" .

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**Sr. Yvette & Sisters, Balbhavan, Andheri**

## Called to be Angels

Nagamma is a poor widow living near the Kripa Nilaya-Sedam Convent, having three children and she was pregnant with a fourth child. When she went for delivery to her native place, she got a message that her husband was killed by some persons while he was travelling by train. People around helped to bring his body and buried him. Now she was left alone along with her four children, there was no help from her mother's side nor from her husband's side. She was so helpless and could not leave her children to go to work. They were living in a rented room. To add to her sorrow her youngest child who was just born



passed away suddenly. Seeing her pathetic condition, the sisters decided to help her and brought her to the convent. We employed her as a cook and enrolled the children in a school, supporting them with education. Now Nagamma feels relaxed and happy. Her life was really a map of problems however her destiny got clearer when we gave her and her children a safe place to live. Suffering is nothing by itself, but suffering shared with others is when we find a solution. When God close one door, He opens another door and sends his angels to hold. We are called to be angels to give wise guidance, to offer healing energy, to protect, and sometimes simply being present through life's ups and downs when they are alone.

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**Sr. Kosesav shm, Sedam-Gulberga**

## Mother is a special gift from God

We love our mothers very much. Sometimes back my mother was very sick and her pressure got very high. All of a sudden she lost her memory and was not able to talk and walk, she was continuously urinating and had many other complication. My brother and sisters lost all hope seeing her in this condition. My mother was mentally and physically very sick. When I was informed of my mother's condition I tried my best to speak to her on the phone but due to her illness she could not speak to me. I know I was far away from her but I also knew that through my prayer I could assist her. I was spending more time in prayer for my mother's good health. I was praying through the intercession of Mother Ann Huberta, the Founder of the Helpers of Mary, to heal my mother. My community sisters too join me in interceding with Mother Anna Huberta. After three months God heard my prayer and with all doctors treatment my mother regained her health, now she is able to talk, walk and move around. God gave her a new life again, through this incident God made me aware that God will not leave me alone. I experienced Gods power through the intercession of Mother Anna Huberta. I thank God for all his Blessings and leading us on every day.

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**Sr. Josephine D'Souza shm, Sedam-Gulberga**

## Widows' Day

Most of the women experience great hardship after their husbands die. Some of these women find themselves denied of inheritance and land rights, in some case they are thrown out from their homes. To encourage them, the Sisters of Isha Matha Convent, Banda had organized a celebration of Widows day. 51 women (widows) participated in this programme. The chief guest, Mrs Pooja, the sarpanch (decision maker in a village government) emphasized in her talk that a women must speak out and ask for their rights and avail of the benefits of the different schemes that are available. She explained how to apply for it and who is eligible for these different schemes. Fr. William, the Parish Priest spoke on the strength of women when they are united in a group. To enable them to create a life for themselves and their children following and ending a cycle of poverty to some extent, we motivated them to begin income generation programs. Now a group of widows will start income generation through candle making. It is very necessary to understand their conditions and enable them to live a life that they want.



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**Sr. Yogini Renjar shm, Banda**

## Care for Creation

Care for the Earth is not just a day slogan, but everyday's. We are called to protect people and the planet. In the context of the climate crisis, one of the mandates of the SHM 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was to set plans to **Care for the Creation**. Hence the General Council has announced the year 2020 as 'the year of Care of Creation'. As bearers of God's image, all of us have the responsibility and privilege of caring for God's creation.

By caring for the planet is caring for people and for our future. Hence every SHM community has pledge to: Pray and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable. Learn about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change. Here are some ideas to get started, avoiding use of plastic, segregation of garbage, have your own trash and compost system, use reusable container for leftovers, cut down on plastic by carrying your own water bottle, preferably reusable one made of aluminum rather than plastic, opt to wrap gifts in a reusable bag instead of wrapping paper, use of flower pots instead of buying flowers, change light bulbs to eco-friendly types, turn off the lights when not in use, use of cloth bags, collect rain water and store it for future use, rather than allowing it to run off. We believe that our tangible actions, even small ones, do make a difference.



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

## God of Wonder

On December 16, 2019 Miss Karuna received the good news that District Judge granted her the bail and she could go home and unite with her family. She was a under trial, accused for murdering her brother and has been in prison for three years. I was following this case, checked with the parents about the bail bond and other formalities and also met the advocate for the verification of the bail bond documents. It took almost a month to get the two surety and for verifying various documents. Along with me Karuna's parents, who are illiterate, went to police station and Land Revenue Office to clear the paper of the sureties. On January 17, 2020 Karuna's parents were very peaceful and happy that they would take their daughter home. I accompanied them to the jail and Karuna was released from the Prison in the evening. Mrs. Munni Devi, mother of Karuna said "God works wonder, for three years I have been waiting to get my daughter home and my trust in God made me go on". She knew that her daughter is innocent in this case. She believes that in a few months the case will be closed after the necessary investigation. Those who seek for justice, **God will grant justice!**.....





# Voluntary Service

My name is Dr. Hans-Martin Hauff. I am a retired doctor for Children and Youths. My wife, Patricia Duncan-Hauff, is a former English teacher and teacher trainer. We live in Gundelfingen, Germany. We are members of "Indienhilfe-Wasser ist Leben", which has been supporting the SHM for 25 years. We had been considering for a while offering active voluntary help. In 2019 we contacted the Generalate in Andheri in order to find out in which way we could offer our efficient services. We flew on the 30th of January 2020 to Mumbai with a bag full of teaching ideas and methods combining English and Medical Knowledge.



We are here in Shradha Vihar, where there is the Generalate of the SHM. Our task is teaching English to 1st year Postulants, English lessons and new born baby care to Paramedical students, teaching action songs and rhymes embedded in small stories to the little children in the slum-nursery school and giving a talk about health and hygiene to the girls in Balbhavan.

From the very 1st day we felt warm welcome and integrated by the sisters, paramedical students, senior citizens and children. In the meantime we have a busy daily teaching routine and also supported the Sisters in editing the articles and reports.

Our room is in the children's tract Bal Bhavan (children's home). Going in and out we meet many children at all time of the day. We receive their friendliness and affection and can observe their joy and ambition coping with all their activities and studies. We see the love of the Sisters working with them in all the different fields like praying, singing, dancing, playing, serving the meals, checking their homework, project works and their daily hygiene. The Sisters are of course 24 hours a day with them and give them all their support if needed.

Everywhere we can observe the loving and efficient activities of all the Sisters in all their different places and fields of work in Shradha Vihar. To give an example of our personal experience we want to mention; Sr. Cecilia who helped us in finding the proper approach to teach the paramedics, Sr. Martha and Sr. Jaivanti who accompanied us with the postulants, Sr. Chaya who walked with us through parts of the slums and introduced us to members of her women's groups. And with many other Sisters whose names are not mentioned we had our daily contacts and often moving conversations. All the Sisters are bound together in their deep faith, daily prayers, meditation and so, they are able to cope with daily challenges.

A very conspicuous, well planned building is the new Bal Bhavan. Everybody and particularly the children will be pleased to move into their new home from the temporary quarters. Sometimes we did our "homework" in the open air near the Little Paradise". We were invited for a cup of tea by Sr. Karuna and found out what a good, caring and peaceful place it is for the elderly Sisters who had worked hard all of their lives and now are themselves in need of care. We could visit the home for elderly people (Jivan Asha) with 60 seniors and feel the caring and supporting spirit of the sisters and supporting staff. We looked round the hospital with a maternity room, a delivery room, a department with sonography and consulting rooms for outpatients. We were invited to meet a pediatric colleague and had a good and informative talk with him.

On Sunday 2nd February we were privileged to attend and celebrate the Golden Jubilee of 10 Sisters, beginning with Holy Mass and ending with various dancing activities. The colourful performances were created and practiced by all the different groups of girls assisted by the Sisters with choreography and costumes. What a wonderful sight and feeling! Vivid colours, shining happiness and radiation of joy. We were able to feel particularly in these moments the dedication and spirit of the SHM of loving, caring and educating the countless children and young women to give them a better future.

Our pupils are very attentive, diligent and grateful. Day by day we experienced the hospitality and the religious fulfillment of the Sisters. When we imparted our knowledge and experience as an English teacher and as a children's doctor we received an abundance of kindness, warmth, acknowledgment and smiling faces. We appreciate this precious gift and will certainly treasure it when we return to Gundelfingen, Germany!

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**Dr. Hans-Martin Hauff and Patricia Duncan-Hauff**

## CONDOLENCE

Our heartfelt sympathy to  
**Srs. Yogini & Harshini Renjar lost their brother**  
**Sr. Leena Fernandes lost her sister**

May their souls rest in peace

