

GOOD SHEPHERD

Mission at BALAGHAT

in the Year 2015

For the past twenty six years the community was involved in socio-spiritual activities in and around Balaghat. The last three years the focus of our mission has been initial formation. Girls who are desirous of becoming Good Shepherd Sisters come here for their first stage of formation. The community assist them and conducts various programmes for them.

On April 23rd we had the joy of having a triple celebration as we had the Birthday celebration of all the candidates, anticipated celebration of the feast of our Mother Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia and farewell to the Sisters and all who helped during the Formation. We invited all the professors, Lay partners and the Sisters from our neighbouring Convent whose presence added more joy to the celebration. Fr. Lijo from Arch Bishop's House was the Main Celebrant, Frs. Binoy, the parish priest and Sunith, the Assistant parish con - celebrated with him. Sr. Nisha and Swati gave the Introduction of the Mass. The people blessed the candidates and prayed for them; in turn the candidates thanked them for their support and guidance. They entertained us with a enjoyable cultural programme and ended the celebration with a delicious fellowship meal.

On 26th of April - the Good Shepherd Sunday - we took part in the choir and gave introduction during the Eucharistic celebration in the Parish Church. Sr. Manjula and two candidates creatively presented the History of our Congregation and highlighted Our Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia in a

meaningful way. Fr. Binoy, the Parish Priest appreciated our activities in the parish and in the nearby villages. People in the parish came to know more about the Charism and Good Shepherd Mission. We shared our Joy by distributing sweets to the parishners. In the Evening a few priests and Sisters joined us for a special prayer.

On 24th of June we welcomed joyfully the new batch of candidates. Ten girls who expressed their ardent desire to become religious entered the first year of Formation. Sr. Nisha, the Directress of the Candidates gave orientation to the new comers explaining to them the aim and importance of formation.

On July 31st, 2015 we celebrated the Birthday of our Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia. Sisters from Deena Bandhu Samaj and both Priests from our Parish joined us for the Celebration. The introduction, the sermon and the prayers of the Mass reflected the Life of our Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia. Candidates gave a meaningful cultural program. They danced, sang and helped us to recall the inspirational sayings of our Foundress through their presentation and concluded the program by singing the aspiration of our Foundress after which the guests joined us for the fellowship meal.

On 11th November we had the mission partners' meeting in our community. There were seven of them from different activities and we were happy to interact and shared our experience with them. Sr. Manjula spoke about their role as Good Shepherd mission partners

and Sr. Nisha shared her experience in the Philippines with mission partners of other countries. Sr. Nisha explained that the mission partners need to work together to spread Good Shepherd Mission. Being challenged and boosted by the talks, our lay partners decided to offer their time and energy for the Good Shepherd Mission. The very next day along with Sisters and candidates, they went to different villages to visit the families and gave an awareness programme.

On 22nd October, we as a community went for an annual picnic to Hyderabad. We cherished staying together and had a relaxed time during these days. We went to film city and Kolgonda which are historical places. We enjoyed this unique experience.

Sr. Kamla teaches at St. Mary's English Medium school run by the Parish. She spreads the Charism of our Congregation while collaborating and working with the youth in the parish. She also instils in the young the value of education and its effects on society. She takes catechism for the little children to deepen their faith in God and helps in various activities of the parish. She also teaches hymns to candidates in her free time.

We thank God for all the events through which we were able to accomplish His Mission. We have entered into the hearts of many children, youth and women and made an impact in their lives. We pray and invoke the blessings of God to enable us to continue working together in spreading the Mission of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. □

