

OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY AT GOOD SHEPHERD PROVINCIALATE THIS IS OUR STORY...

We read in the book of *Wisdom* that ***“Her radiance never cease...in every generation she passes into holy souls”***. (7:10, 27) We are glad to share some of our experience as a community together in mission, how this radiance never ceased in passing on to each other in community and ministry. We thank Jesus the Good Shepherd for the unique gift of each other. We have experienced each other’s sisterly love in our daily life and ministry. In Sacredness we could uphold each other by our very presence, teamwork, dexterity, appreciation, encouragement, sharing of our abilities and talents in passing the radiance of Christ light to each other in mission. It was indeed a great experience of unity in diversity.



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

On 12 March we celebrated the international women's day with the inmates of Nagpur central jail along with our lay mission partners and Pre-novices. It was indeed empowering and enlightening for the women, the powerful message was passed onto them that God loves everyone as he created each of us in his own image and likeness. We are born to be free and experience His love through one another. One of the inmates wrote a beautiful poem on how marvelously God created a woman as a loving and caring person "for she is a breath of the power of God" Wisdom: (7: 25). Some of the women took the opportunity to share the talents through dancing, singing and sharing their imaginative idea through poem.



EASTER CELEBRATION

The Easter story assures us that we need God's guidance and strength and we need to let go of our efforts to try to control life by ourselves. This was the experience of the inmates in the central prison of Nagpur as we celebrated the new life in Christ. The Sacrament of reconciliation was administered to them before the celebration of the Eucharist. The inmates played the musical instruments for the Holy Mass and they too sang some hymns and we shared the Easter joy after the mass.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

A two-day workshop was held at the diocesan pastoral center, Nagpur on 15th and 16th July, 2017. The theme of the workshop was migration and Human Trafficking. The participants consisted of the Good Shepherd Project staff and representatives of women groups from Garratola and Balaghat and Nagpur. The participants discussed on the reasons for migration, its negative effects on the migrated people, various dimensions of Human Trafficking and how. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the staff and women leaders so that they will go back to the villages and create awareness among the rural communities.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On 15th August 2017 we celebrated 70th Independence day with our tuition children. There were 40 tuition children and their parents along with their siblings. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Raj was the chief guest of the day. Children performed Dances, Action songs, skit, speech, and Patriotic songs. Children were happy to participate in the cultural activities and they too got the opportunity to come on the dais and exhibit their talents. The Chief guest delivered a good message for them.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

11th October, being the International day of the Girl child, we the sisters at Good Shepherd Provincialate and along with our mission partners, organized this day with the children who come to our coaching centre every day and the other children of the area. The invitees for the day were, the Corporator of Mecosabagh area Mrs. Sneha Nikose, Mr. David the DS of Methodist Church and Mr. Philip Jaiswal



The Programme began with a rally. About 150 children (Girls and boys) and mothers took part in the rally in and around the colony. They shouted slogans: “save the girl Child and educate her”, “Girl child is gold; do not sell her”, “Girl child is a pearl; let her shine”...etc.. Many slogans were framed in Hindi and children were holding the placards, showing different slogans and statements written about the importance of a girl child and we went around in the area. The neighborhood was really awakened with the children shouting the slogans with very powerful voices.

After the rally, the public programme was organized to high light the rights of girl child through action songs, dance and street play by the children, staff and the pre-novices. Sr. Pushpa very powerfully and with conviction drew the attention of children; parents and the guest present by explaining the rights of the Girl child which were displayed on the backdrop in Hindi and English.

Mr. David, the chief guest, gave a powerful message in a detailed manner; how God specially created us as human beings and very specifically the girl child, in his precious image, and that there is every need to support and encourage girl children to come up in life and not to destroy their future. The Corporator too wished and encouraged every girl child to do well in their studies and be the empowered persons they would like to be. The girl children enjoyed the day and went home with a sense of pride in them that they are precious.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

We celebrated Children's Day on November 14th 2017, at Good Shepherd Provincialate in Nagpur, for the tuition children who come regularly to our center both the morning and the evening batch. The chief guest for the day was the Manager of Bank of India. The participants were 60 in all a total inclusive of tuition children, sisters & lay mission partners. We began the program with a short prayer conducted by Sr. Pushpa. We honored the chief guest with a shawl.



A month ago we began the celebration of the children's day by organizing various competitions on different themes like: Drawing: My Family, Cleanliness, and Unity in diversity. Sports, Poem writing: on mother, Dance on patriotic songs and Speech competition on prime minister. On this day the winners were awarded prizes. The chief guest also gave some gifts to the children.



PRESS CONFERENCE AND DOMESTIC WORKERS CONVENTION

Domestic Workers in India must be protected through a Comprehensive National Legislation and No Child Labour

National estimate for 2014-15 suggests that 4.75 million workers were employed by private households of which 3.05 million were urban women, making domestic work as the largest female occupation in urban India. Some reports say that the number of domestic workers in India may be up to 40-50 million. Most domestic workers are illiterate and come from vulnerable communities and backward areas. Among them a good number of them are migrants. Many of them are trafficked and sold and end up as bonded labourers. Their work is undervalued, underpaid and poorly regulated. Lack of decent wages and working conditions, defined work time, false accusation, abuse and sexual harassment at workplace are some of their major issues.

Except a state welfare law for domestic workers in Maharashtra, there is no central law to protect rights of domestic workers. Even the existing national legislations which can be made applicable for domestic workers are not implemented by most states. For example, only nine states have included domestic work under the schedule of employment and fixed minimum wages for domestic workers. Only twelve states have constituted the State Social Security Boards under the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) is not implemented in most states. Now the Government of India

had declared a draft national policy for domestic workers, which was same as earlier with few changes. We as organization are shocked as even after five years of C-189 ILO convention the government is only thinking on making national policy and not a comprehensive legislation.

The 100th International Labour Conference adopted a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers on 16th June 2011. It invites the Member

states to respect and ensure effective promotion and protection of the human rights of all domestic workers with respect to freedom of association, collective bargaining, decent working conditions, and protection against all forms of abuse, harassment and violence, social security benefits, access to courts and tribunals etc. ILO C-189 will not be fully meaningful without making a comprehensive law for domestic workers.

In Maharashtra we have a welfare act for domestic workers. It is only for their registration with welfare board and some benefits. The demands was for right based act, hence the amendments were





necessary to do in the recent act. Hence we as organization have called consultation with pillars of democracy to discuss the need and highlight the situation of domestic workers before the government.

The above note was given to the press release and the press conference was held on 10th December on the Human Rights day. We the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Nagpur and

National domestic Workers Unit staff, along with the representatives of the domestic workers participated in the press conference. There were 24 reporters from different News Papers were present like Hitwada, Times of India, Indian Express, The Hindu etc. The consultation was called on 13th December, 2017 at Chitnavis Center, Sadar Road, Nagpur between 5.30 to 7pm. The Maharashtra Assembly winter session is always held in Nagpur every year. This year it was held from 10th December to 20th December 2017.

We had the Convention on 13th December 2017 and invited the stakeholders like Judges, labour Law Advocates, Human right Activists, Media Personnel, Labour Minister, Members of Legislative Assembly, Union Leaders, NGO's and the domestic workers for the proposed amendments in domestic workers Legislation under National Policy for domestic workers.

During the Convention the press note and the Maharashtra welfare act for domestic workers and the flight of the domestic workers were highlighted to the Ministers. They assured us that they will take up the issue in the Assembly during the session and include the provisions and welfare measures that are demanded by the domestics and the stakeholders.

We appeal you to kindly attain the same

1. **The Govt. of India protects the rights of domestic workers through a Comprehensive National Legislation for Domestic Workers.**
2. **The Govt. of India ratifies the ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.**



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas celebrations started with carol singing in our area on 21st December, 2017. We, the sisters along with the area collector and other Parishioners, went around the Mecosabagh Christian colony. It was a joyous moment to go around in our colony, bringing the message of Christ's birth to the Catholic families as well as in the neighborhood.

We had the Christmas celebration in our convent Hall on 22nd December with our lay mission partners, the children who come regularly for coaching classes and their parents. The Children put up a Christmas tableau, sang carols and performed beautiful dances. Fr. Richard was the chief guest for the programme and he gave an inspiring message for all especially to the children. Children were happy to receive a blanket as a Christmas gift from Santa Claus. All enjoyed the celebration and the company of one another. We concluded our celebration with a delicious fellowship meal prepared by our mission partners.

We shared the Christmas joy with the inmates of Nagpur Central Jail on 23rd December. Fr. Philip Topno, Fr. Praful Ekka and Pillar brothers came along with us. We delivered the Christmas message to the women and men through a Christmas play, dances, action songs and Christmas carols. The inmates shed tears of joy as they were listening and participating in the programme. It was a great opportunity for some of us to visit the prison for the first time by meeting and spoke to the inmates. We enjoyed being with them at least for some time. We felt the inner joy by giving of our time for them. All of us felt we had celebrated this year's Christmas in a very meaningful way.

