

Kripalaya - Pre-Novitiate

A short report of the formation program and activities for the year 2016 to 2017

15th of August 2016 was a joyful and memorable day for all of us in Kripalaya, our Pre-novitiate and the sisters of Nagpur Community. (Six) of our candidates began the next stage of their formation. Prior to that Sr. Julia Mary, the directress led them into silence, reflection and prayer. A meaningful and well prepared prayer service with the theme "Call to journey inward to find the Priceless Treasure," marked the Initiation Ceremony in the presence of Sr. Sabina Pathrose, the Province Leader and the sisters of the community.

The Program consisted of classes on various topics and other activities with the aim of getting to know oneself better and to strengthen the formees' love for Jesus the Good Shepherd.

On 13th Sept'16 we celebrated Onam in solidarity with the people of Kerala, with the prayer service, the traditional Thiruvathira dance and a well prepared meal with 15 delicious home prepared items!

25th September '2016 provided another learning experience for the pre-novices. They joined the community sisters for the medical camp in the prison.

On 4th November 2016 our pre-novices along with the Pre-novices of St. Joseph's of Leon performed an entrance dance at the inauguration of the Parish Church, which was appreciated by many.

On 16th November we were happy to welcome Srs. Josita and Francis, members of the Congregational leadership team, who spent their time with us. We had a short cultural evening. This time together helped us to build a friendly rapport with the sisters and per-novices were able to share their experience of being part of the Good Shepherd

Family.



In the month of December we had several occasions to exhibit their talents and share the joy of Christmas: like Christmas program in Nagpur Central Jail, in the Parish along with people of other faiths, and at our neighborhood with the message to be human through our humanitarian attitude toward our brothers and sisters.

On 3rd Jan'17 we thanked God for the life of Sr. Sabina with the solemn mass and cultural evening as we anticipated her birthday.

February 13th to 27th was a memorable time for the pre-novices as we left for the village exposure, 35 kilometers away from Nagpur city. We had 15 days of lived experience with the villagers. We stayed in a house on our own and went along with the women of the village for work and in the evenings visited their families. It was indeed an enriching experience, living amidst the simple people. Our learnings:

- Each one of us realized the hard work the women put in both in the field and at home. Yet they are very cheerful!
- Women create a world of love through the sacrifice of their life
- We admired and appreciated their commitment to the family members
- Though they have very little they are ready to share
- The language is not a barrier to share love
- Though they are much senior in age they look up to the 'educated people' for guidance
- The women of the village dare to risk themselves for the wellbeing of the family
- We also learned to live with minimum requirement.
- Once a day we came together to share our experiences of the day and to thank God that gave us strength and encouragement.
- Through this experience each of us realized that the true love leads us to live a committed life and generates daring spirit to make a difference through our very life.





14th March we had an "earth quest day" in the Water Park, with lot of adventurous games. They were able to let off their fear and enjoy the day to the maximum.

On 16th March we celebrated the International Women's day with the women in the prison through sound and music skit, conveying the message that every one of us is born to be free, to live and experience the uniqueness of God's gift of life. We are to strengthen each other in our struggle and that all of us are equals whatever may be our status in life.

During the year we had different classes and activities to enable the pre-Novices to discover who they are and what they want to be. Listed below are the points they shared:

- **We were able to discover our innate talents**
- **Deepen our desire to be part of the Good Shepherd family**
- **Able to work on unresolved issues of our past**
- **Live in unity with our uniqueness and differences**
- **Tried to live the Sacred Space**
- **Gained self-confidence through various activities**
- **Deepened our knowledge of oneself, God, Congregation and the Church.**
- **We got opportunities to clarify our aims and goals for the future**
- **We feel that we are young women wanting to be little shepherdesses, following in the footsteps of St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia**

We thank God for guiding us throughout the year. We are grateful to God for all the resource persons especially Sr. Julia Mary, our directress who constantly accompanied us on our journey and Sr. Anthoniammal who supported us in many ways.

Sr. Julia Mary and Pre-novices

