

Joy of Coming together

Simon Snek said, "Life is beautiful not because of what we see or do. Life is beautiful because of the people we meet in Life." To add beauty to our Life and make this gathering memorable, we eagerly looked forward to meeting our sisters from South West India Province. It was a great joy for all of us to be together in Bangalore for 21 days, from 12th April to 2nd May 2023.

The exciting moments...

We enjoyed the days together. Meeting new people, listening to each other's stories, and being inspired were more exciting. We loved this gathering and interaction with our sisters. It was nice to be able to connect for 21 days. We were 23 temporary professed sisters; 16 of them were from SWI, and six of us were from CEIN. Two of our sisters could not make it due to their studies

Opening ritual & message...

Our gathering began on the 12th evening with a special opening prayer by the SWI sisters connecting the five Pancha Boothas to our Life and embracing one another with open hearts and minds. Sr. Lissy, Province Leader of South West India, delivered the opening message; a call to examine our vocation, renew our calling, and reaffirm our Life through prayer.

Building Bridges...

One of the most awaited events that we, the sisters in the temporary profession, look forward to is the Annual Gathering. Annual gatherings are a sparkling moment in our lives. It is a moment where we share, learn and grow together. It is a lighter moment in our lives too. Moreover, this year we were eagerly looking forward to this great event as Central East India / Nepal and South West India Provinces having this gathering together in Bangalore for the first time.



Central East India/Nepal
&
South West India



Learnings...

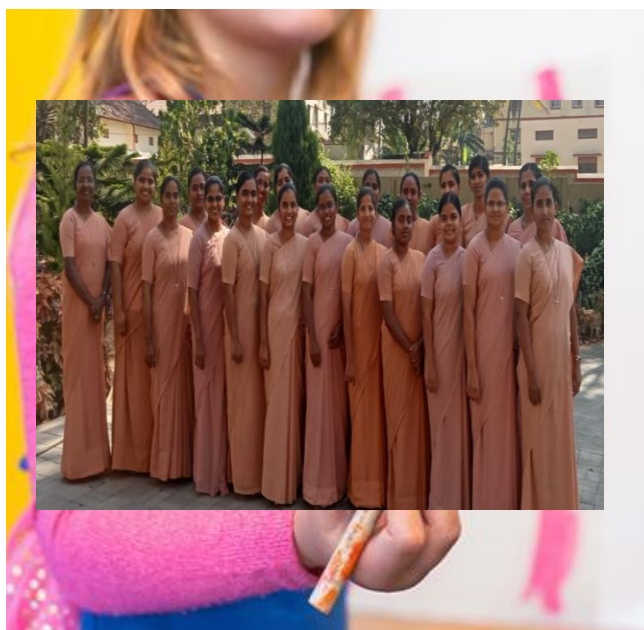
All these sessions were enriching, awakening us to examine our call and be fruitful in our mission. This gathering embarked us on journey of our learning and being an efficient and effective person for the congregation. The sessions enabled us to strengthen our relationship with each other. The highlighted and most inspired session was on Confidence Building. Big thanks to the J- Team from Chennai. We all cherished and enjoyed this session and have learnt a lesson for our Life. It was a beautiful journey for us all with this team. We travelled the path that is often less travelled in our Life with them. This session paved the way for us to learn, grow and take risks, especially knowing one's ability, to build confidence in oneself and others, to work in a team, and encourage one another with team spirit.

Programs...

We had sessions on various topics like Ice Breaking and Appreciative Enquiry, Prayer and Essentials of Religious Life, Confidence Building, Social Analysis and the Current Realities of our Country. The whole program was well organized by Srs. Kala and Shantha.

Learnings...

We had two days of sharing of life in community. This sharing strengthened us with new vigor and we were able to affirm, appreciate and encourage one another for the commitment and service in keeping alive the Spirit of Sts. John Eudes and Mary Euphrasia. We had a day of outing, which was a memorable one, we visited our communities in Bangalore because for some of us from CEIN province its first time to Bangalore (beginning of our mission in India) and met our elderly sisters. It was indeed a joyful moment for all of us. We also went to the park and planetarium.



Encountering the Sacred...

The eight days' retreat in Dhyanaashrama was an enriching experience, we had spent our time fruitfully in contemplation and prayer. We were called to reflect on the mainspring of God's unconditional love. We felt renewed and rejuvenated to begin a new life and see all things new in Christ. On our last gathering day, we had an assessment and sharing. It was inspiring to learn from one another.

We concluded our gathering with a meaningful prayer of thanksgiving to God for all His blessings and for one another's help and support. This gathering was one of the best of all. We were enlightened to build bridges like Jesus; for He was the bridge between us and the Father. We wish to be the same in our Life to be the bridge that always connects, for Love is the bridge between us and everything. We bid farewell from Bangalore with the inspiration **To Build Bridges and Be the Bridge.**

Finally, a big thanks to both the PLT's for organizing this gathering in common. We remain grateful for your support and help in our Journey. We also thank Srs. Shantha and Kala for their accompaniment and their help. A special thanks to Sr. Kala TP's directress for being a great support and strength for the last six years for the sisters in temporary profession. May Jesus, our Good Shepherd, be her guide and strength as she takes up a new mission.