

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTRAL EAST INDIA/ NEPAL

NEUVILLITES' DAY – 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

WALKING THROUGH THE GREEN DOOR –

An invitation to healing and love, service and solidarity, wholeness and salvation

“Let zeal be the ship that carries you on.” (St. Mary Euphrasia)

‘Never before have we had and perhaps never again shall we have such an opportunity--- SJE’
Around 308 Sisters and Partners in Mission across the Province, gathered virtually to celebrate Neuvillites' Day on 2nd September for the first time breaking barriers of language and differences, uniting in the true spirit of love for the mission.

The creatively designed program brought together all the mission partners whose palpable energy ignited the virtual space. We are grateful to the *Team for Wholeness*



comprising Sr. Kala Hermanajilt, Sr. Mariam Kulangara, Sr. Usha Varghese, Sr. Arockia Mary and Sashirekha Natarajan who created this beautiful experience, not to forget our September Santa, Sr. Josita Corera, who enriched the gathering.

At the outset, each community came together to celebrate the giftedness of their mission partners who renewed their commitment to the mission with zeal and joy.

At 4 pm, 308 Sisters and Partners in Mission logged in from 130 zoom connections to ***Walk through the GREEN DOOR***. One could feel the vibrant presence of St. Mary Euphrasia as voices of elated greetings in Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, Tamil, Telugu and English seized the platform.

The joyous group were invited to share their hopes for this grand fellowship by Sashi Natarajan, following which Srs. Usha and Arockia invited us to live as joyful disciples on our mission through prayer. Sr. Kala, the Link Councillor for the Team for Wholeness introduced the organising team and heartily welcomed the participants.

Sr. Pushpa Louis, the Province Leader, greeted the partners in four languages with the encouraging words of St. Mary Euphrasia, “*The tiny acorn of our efforts has developed into a strong oak tree with its shady branches, sheltering thousands of persons in need.*” She urged us to embark together on mission, welcoming people with the Good Shepherd Spirit and charism, to be torch bearers for the future. Together, let us reach out to enrich the lives of the lost, last and the least and embrace the whole world. She quoted Pope Benedict, “*The laity must no longer be viewed as collaborators, but truly recognized as co-responsible persons for the mission.*”

All passengers landed on the shores of Angers, led by the grand storyteller Sr. Deanna, who enthralled everyone with stories and anecdotes, opening the rich story of the Green Door, building curiosity and stirring the gathering to ponder on the questions:



○ **What risks did SME take in opening this Green Door?**

○ **What stirs in you when you hear about the History of the Green Door and its relevance today?**

The animated responses were incited by Sr. Kala, as partners shared their admiration for Mary Euphrasia whose love for the unreached, propelled her to take risks in opening the green door of her heart, mind and spirit to move forward with courage, in collaboration with her many friends and partners.

“WHERE DO YOU NEED INPUT OR HELP TO WALK THROUGH THE GREEN DOOR IN TODAY’S CONTEXT?”

Sr. Mariam steered the conversation towards ‘*the significance of the Green Door in today’s context*’. Many partners shared their experiences during the pandemic humbly acknowledging the need to change our ways of being and doing to respond more proactively to the mission.

Here are some responses:

‘St. Mary Euphrasia’s ardent zeal to reach out to every single person who wanted to experience the gentle Masters’ love, enabled us to take initiatives in reaching out to our brethren who lacked basic needs due to the 3 month lockdown; reaching out to the people returning home by foot wishing to be united with their loved ones.’

‘The generous hearts and minds of many made it possible to fight the situation created by the novel corona virus, which lightened and strengthened the hearts of the people at the margins.’

The quiz conducted by the Chennai school teachers added joy to the celebration as well as awakened the hearts of young and old towards full participation. A very novel way of increasing visitors to the GSAP website indeed!



SANTA in SEPTEMBER?

We were thrilled to welcome in our midst Sr. Josita Corera, the Congregational Leadership Team Member, who gave us an inspiring message, deeply appreciating the large group gathered amidst the pandemic and thanked each one for their teamwork in carrying forward the mission, wishing for greater collaboration.

WE RENEW OUR COMMITMENT: All Sisters and Partners in Mission together pronounced their zealous commitment duly led by Mrs. Flory. This was followed by the meaningful ceremony of MISSIONING through the Green Door by Sr. Pushpa. The virtual celebration ended with expressions of gratitude to the organisers and the participants by Mrs. Seema Francis.

Together in Mission!