



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO



Holy Family Contemplatives, Nagoda-kandana.

SENT FOR MISSION

Christ the savior is born for us. Let us rejoice dear friends. It is no season for sadness. It is the birthday of **LIFE- LIFE** which annihilates the fear of death and engenders joy, promising immortality.

At the birthday of LIFE, angels exult and sing in choir, "**Glory to God in the highest Heavens.**" They proclaim, "**Peace on earth to men of goodwill.**" Heavenly Jerusalem is built among us. What wonderful love God shares with us. Angels in heaven and we on earth, sing for joy,

"Glory- Glory – Glory to God on high."



GRATITUDE IS THE HEART OF MEMORY

It is often said that being open to the present moment is the means of continual growth. Hence reflection on our "**Yesterdays**" makes our hearts marvel with wonder. We owe so much gratitude for God's magnificent blessings. May we invite you dear friends to join us in our song of thanksgiving and praise for His gratuitous love and mercy towards us both as individuals and as community.

We now take this opportunity to share with you a few main events of our community through which God's presence, power, love, and mercy have been experienced in a very tangible way.



As an institute of the Holy Family, a few members of our community participated at the General



Chapter from the 12th may – 04th June. Here, Sr. Bernadette TAURINYA was re elected as the Vicar of the Contemplatives and she is also one

member of the General Leadership Team.

Another Spirit filled period in our diary was our Vicariate chapter held in Martillac - France from 10th – 25th November. It was in view of implementing the orientations of the General Chapter of the Institute. The theme being "**SENT FOR MISSION- IF WE DON'T DARE NOW, WHEN**" We were 15 delegates, from the 4 communities that form the Vicariate. A tangible expression of our bond of unity was the presence of Sr. Ana Maria ALCALDE, the Superior General of the Institute as the president.





The Apostolic sisters worked in close collaboration with us as moderator, translators, and the member of

the Spirituality Centre. We appreciate much their sisterly concern- which is also a concrete expression of unity in diversity.

We congratulate the councillors Srs. Lorenza, Elizabeth and Malini who were elected at this assembly.

YOUNG LIFE IN PROCESS

Our young sisters Sinthi, Rishmala, Ruwani and Freeda in response to the call of God, renewed their commitment on 12th June, the Feast of Our Lady of all Graces.



We thank you dear Sr. Mary Slaven and the sisters of Martillac community (France) who made provision for our sisters to participate at this session "Present to His Presence as in Nazareth" from the 11th Feb- 10th March. Our Srs. Christelda and Ruwani seem to have



profited much by this session. We appreciate and thank you for your welcoming spirit.

It is with joy that we live our availability for the common good of the Vicariate. Sr. Malini Joseph, a member of our community generously accepted to join the community of La Solitude- France.



From Sep 2013 - May 2014, Sr. Christelda had joined the community of Martillac- France for her personal formation. She now shares her experience.

"Continually I experience God's love and concern for me. But a further experience was my stay in Martillac at the feet of our Founder. Living in another country, community, culture and foreign language was a different and a rich experience. Though at the beginning, it was difficult for me to communicate with one another, I surrendered myself to the Lord and gradually the Lord helped me and guided me in making me understand others.

Living in a different community I learnt many things. How each sister was totally committed to give herself for the community. In spite of their age, they were quite active and also were a living witness to the Contemplative Vocation. There was great concern and respect for one another. The atmosphere of silence and solitude were quite remarkable.



A further joyful experience was the observance of nature- the seasonal changes taught me many things- dying to self, letting go in order to give new life. Our house being surrounded by the vineyards brought home to me what Jesus says in John 15: (The Parable of the Vinyard).



I am ever grateful and thankful to God who gave me this privileged opportunity to be in this community and be at the Holy dwelling of our Founder."

☀ A 3 month scriptural course on the Gospel of John was conducted by the Christian brothers at Mutwal. Our Srs. Ruwani and Freeda followed it and seem to have gained much.



WELCOME

Our community continues with its mission of welcome. We offer a space of peace and prayer to those who desire to be with the Lord and with oneself for short periods. We include here the experience of two sisters who expressed their gratitude and appreciation.

"The 7 days spent in prayer and contemplation are unforgettable. The warm welcome we received as we arrived made us feel quite at home. The



serenity and the quietness of the surrounding atmosphere led us into contemplation.

The Morning Prayer and evening prayer sung together with the sisters helped us to lift our hearts and minds to God. As we joined them in prayer and at meals, we were made to feel that we are part of the big Family of Peter Bienvenu Noailles.

The sisters went about their work in silence yet they were attentive to our needs. In a world where the young are drawn to fun and movie, we were impressed by the presence of many young sisters who have dedicated their lives to prayer and contemplation. Though ailing and aged, the elderly sisters were an example of dedication to this way of life." – Srs. Hycinth Alwines and Jenet Perera



UNION WITH LOCAL CHURCH

It was for the first time that the National Religious day was organized by the Major Religious Superiors. The theme considered was "Mary- A prophet for the World today." On the 14th February about 600 Religious priests, brothers and sisters from various congregations assembled at the national basilica at Tewatte. The day's program was very meaningfully and prayerfully organized, centered on the Eucharist. It would certainly have been a visible witness of our Christian faith and the religious commitment. From our community Srs. Sinthi, Rishmala and Freeda participated. Our presence was a witness of the contemplative vocation within the church.



OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY BONDS

- ✦ The Holy Family Priest Associates had their LIVE IN programme at Fatima Retreat house, Lewella, from 26th-29th August. What was special this



year was the presence of the Indian Priest Associates and the members

from all 5 Vocations. It was a rich experience of getting to know each vocation better, deepening our Family bonds, and in living our Charism of communion.

- ✦ On the 22nd October, the Holy Family rally was organized by the Lay associates – Colombo province. Sr. Michael expresses here the joy of participating at this historic event.

“By 8.30a.m, the Nattandiya church ground was crowded with the members of all the 5 vocations. It was really marvelous and encouraging to see the whole group waiting anxiously to enter into the program of the day. The presentations were given by various persons of the 5 groups showed that they were extremely enthusiastic and burning with love and zeal for the Family and the Founder. For us Contemplatives, it was the first experience in participating at such a meeting.



We were able to communicate with one another, sharing something of our life. We really marveled and were edified by their inputs.

At the end of the day, we thanked and praised God for such rich and marvelous blessings showered on the Family. The weather too co operated well with us. Praise the Lord.”



YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Everyone is fully aware that the year 2015 has been declared by Pope Francis as the year dedicated to consecrated life. Pope Francis challenges us to be prophetic witness to the world of today- to awaken our society to newness.

“Lord, make our “YES” beautiful, so that our lives and our whole being may be a joyful offering on the altar of love. Let this be our daily plea to the one who has spotted us out among the millions in the universe. Glory and praise to God Forever.”



DEAR READERS, OUR PRAYERFUL WISHES TO YOU, FOR A FAITH-FILLED CHRISTMAS HOPE FILLED NEW YEAR LOVE FILLED LIFE EACH DAY!

**Merry
Christmas**

**2015
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**