

# Newsletter Province India South



## *EDITORIAL*



*As we had mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we dedicate this issue to Adelaide de Cice. In this issue we bring to you the Bi-centennial celebrations held in our different communities in the Province south, also the camps, sessions and some personal experiences of sisters. As our Provincial put it, “It made us feel the greatness of our vocation and the depth of our spirituality.”*

*In the next issue at the end of September, we will share news of the General Chapter. You are also welcome to send in any experiences, activities and celebrations held.*

*We pray for the outpouring of the spirit on the General Chapter deliberations and on the delegates that will gather at the Mother House in Paris.*

*I express my gratitude to sisters who have contributed articles to this newsletter and to Marykutty Chandy, Celine Leo and Sarita Pinto for the technical support in bringing out this Newsletter.*

*Happy Reading!*

*Perpetua Machado*

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## Nirmala Bhavanam – Kondotty

This year 2017-18, God has blessed us with many graces.



**Regarding our activities:-** We participate in the Parish activities such as teaching catechism and in family prayer units.

**Education ministry:-** Mary Rodrigues teaches in a school nearly 18 kilometers away from our house. She is actively involved in the school as well as in the Parish. The school where Shirley Sebastian teaches is situated in a remote area of Thamarassery Diocese. The majority of the students come from broken families. Shirley makes it a point to visit the houses of needy students whenever she gets time. Some of the

students really open up their problems to her.

**Hostel:** This year we have nearly 30 women (Students/Bank employees and teachers) in the hostel. In February 2018, we conducted a session for our hostelites. The resource person, Dr. Elizabeth Babu gave a session on ‘The dignity of women’. The session was well appreciated by all. We also celebrated women’s day with our hostelites. One of the hostelites shared her own painful experience and how that helped her to come up in life. This was an eye opener for all those who were present.



**Play School:-** This year we had 10 children in our play school. Through these little ones we really experienced God’s love. It was indeed wonderful to observe their play activities as well as their growth. Different play activities were conducted during the year. They also had a nature walk in the paddy field.

others of the children were given a class. They actively participated in the session. The resource person stressed on the importance of the mother's role in the family. We had an annual day celebration on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. All the parents were present for the function.



## **The Call of Abram**

*Marykutty chandy*

“Leave your country, your relatives and your father's home and go to a land that I am going to show you”.... This is what we read about our father Abram's call in Genesis chapter 12. This chapter is very dear to me since I am going to be 75 soon! Just imagine Abram too was 75 when Yahweh spoke to him. Whether I will be told to leave everything now, I don't know; but it is possible!

So Abram took his wife Sarai ,a beautiful woman and Lot his nephew and all that he owned – all the animals, sheep , camels, donkeys and slaves and what not! The old man set out immediately as he knew very well that it was the will of God. Yes, Abram was discerning all his life and he could obey the will of God just like Mary who said “Yes” to God.

Looking back, I too find very many ways in which the Lord led me. He was with me always “I am with you”; “Be not afraid”. These scripture quotations helped me to see His will and follow the path which he led me through. At times the path was curved, at other times it was straight. Still there were times when He led me through thick forests and obscure tunnels. And when I came out from all these experiences there was a thrill of joy.

When Abram travelled he experienced hunger and thirst. When the famine struck badly he was obliged to travel southwards near the border of Egypt, though initially he settled at Canaan, near Shechem. What is interesting to note is that wherever he went, he built an altar to God. He was a God-centered man. So he could feel the pulse of God in every circumstance.

All our years of formation, the people whom we met, the countries we travelled through, the languages we learned and the various tasks which we were assigned to, the pilgrimages which we participated in - in a nutshell everything was a blessing indeed! To thank the Lord, this whole life is not enough; so goes one Malayalam song!

Yes, don't stop at 75. God still gives you strength or some hidden talents which you may discover at your later stage and multiply it and give it back to Him. Therein lies the secret of joy. Recently Pope Francis brought out an Apostolic exhortation “ Gaudate et Exultate = on the call to holiness



in today's world. At the very outset he has mentioned how God called Abraham and asked him to walk before him, and be blameless. [Gen 17/1]

May these days, when we often recall the joy and peace of the Risen Lord, help us also to live our lives fully attuned to his call to holiness. May we find true happiness and joy in discerning everything and living our lives fully, just as our founders lived with joy and peace

### **Titbits from the Capital city of 'God's Own Country'**

- ✚ Lity George thanks each and every one of the DHM family who sent her consoling messages and offered prayers for the repose of her sister.
- ✚ We have given our youngest and the lately arrived Jinsa Joseph to work in the diocesan office of the 'OKHI' project. She goes in the morning around 8 am and comes back at around 6.45 pm.
- ✚ The temperature is soaring very high and it reaches about 39 – 40. Degree at 9. am
- ✚ Since the Govt. Engineering College built a new hostel in their premises for their women students, almost all our hostélites have moved there. Our premises are vacant. You are most welcome to come and stay with us.

### **To be in the "E"- World..... Before Being Labelled 'Illiterate'**

*Mercy Thomas,  
Vimalabhavan, Gothuruthu*

During the past 25 years of its service, Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS) has been trying to improve the living condition of its beneficiaries, the poor and the marginalized people from the Thrissur and Ernakulam District of which the majority are people living



in the coastal areas. KIDS could implement various programmes aiming at the integrated development of our people with a secular mind. We have successfully led thousands of women from the world of ignorance and poverty to the world of knowledge, self-respect, self-reliance and dignity through various training programmes and income generating schemes. Though we consider all the above mentioned developments as our achievements

and believe that, they have brought much change in the life style of the people in this coastal area, empowering the women to stand on their own feet, we feel still backward in one area. This is the '**digital world**', which has become a "**MUST**" for the common person of today. With the emerging revolutionary changes in the communication scenario, leaving almost unbridgeable gaps between generations, we felt urged to get into action to build a bridge, by training and conscientizing the parents who are left behind by their children in this digital world.

The gap is wider in the families from the poorer strata of Society, so we will be concentrating on this category of people with special emphasis on women.

**KIDS** works with a total of 7000 women, of which we would like to make at least 3000 women literate in the digital world over a period of 5 years. As a pilot study and a kind of training of trainers (TOT), we started with **360** women for the next 12 months. The first batch of 60 women started their training and we hope to bring a revolutionary change in the mentality and attitude of not only these trained and empowered women, but also the younger generation who look down upon them. Thus they will not be illiterate in the e-world.

## **JEANNE -From Toronto**

We are an  
**EASTER PEOPLE,  
CALLED TO RADIATE  
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ALIVE  
...IN OUR HEARTS!**

Since my voice-box is in "sotto-voce" gear, I am unable to connect ("babble"! ) with anyone as I usually do on the 'phone, at Christmas, Easter or Birthdays....And so, I'm sending out to my DHM sisters, friends-and-family, a "heads-up" on the goings-on in "my world" since Christmas !!Although it seems like I'd be dysfunctional, I am still able to do my "Father's Business"..... rendering service at the Holy Trinity School, where I am very warmly welcomed by the Principal & teaching staff.

I feel so very grateful that God allows "goodness and kindness" to be my cup-and-portion in these twilight years of my life!!

I help little ones, in Grade one, needing to develop better math or writing, or English Language skills. For some, English is an "alien" language!!

Little Jermain would not mouth a single word in English, since he joined school in September.....he could not follow the class program or mix with his class-mates. And so, the Supervisor of the "Toronto School-Board" was listing him up for the special school program reserved for "Children with Learning Challenges".Ms. Aube, the Principal, shared the family circumstances with me. The mother of this child was very discouraged, because she is from the Philippines, and has come recently to Toronto, does a Nanny's job... House-Cleaning etc... has no car, and shifting him to another school would be a problem, to take him to and fro, especially in winter, as she uses the Public Transit.

Ms. Aube, asked if I could "tutor" him and another little chap, Chace, who also needed to develop better language, writing & math skills! Two months of prayer-love-and-patience have done the trick! Jermain had me stunned when he came out with this recently....

A child who was misbehaving was given "time out" by the Class Teacher. Jermain leans towards me and whispers: "**Adam is HYPER!!**"

Last Tuesday, I looked sadly at Chace....dismayed at the way he was scribbling on his Spelling

Test sheet (as carelessly as he does, when he does not focus on his work) He gives me a naughty smile and says:

**"Sister jean, wait and see...I'll surprise you!"** And he sure did, with his new-found power of SPEECH and perfectly formed letters!! Now it seems like they have "bird seed for breakfast"!

They are happily one, with the class-group for activities, and opening up like little buds do, when a simple "glance from the MASTER" causes the petals to bloom.....! As for me, I feel so very grateful to my God of surprises! When one hope dies...another dawns! I thought that "Voiceless jeanne" would be completely useless for Mission! And here's MY GOD!!! Bringing me "home" to where my HEART is....has always been, in the world of children!! I drink in with delight, the chirp and cuddles-of-appreciation, I receive from these grateful little hearts!!

Sending you google pictures to "visualise the scene!

"Easter Blessings, laden with my prayer and love!

## ***BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF Adelaide de Cice***



### **Nirmalalayam, Trivandrum**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April we had a Mass in our chapel at 6.30 am since it was a Thursday. The introduction was prepared stressing the Founding Charism of our Society. We prayed for the whole Society for its various needs, especially for vocations. The Mass was sung and the girls in the hostel also participated, though they were all very few, since most of the girls left the hostel as they got accommodation in their college campus.

In the Parish bulletin 'Snehadeepam'[for the month of April 2018] we had published an article on our Society, its origin, need of the time, and the mission which we are engaged in at present. This too helped us to make our religious congregation and the various apostolates we are doing in the Church known.

At recreation we had a quiz, based on the life of Adelaide de Cice. Here below we give you a list of these questions on Adelaide. The quiz was only for our sisters and it was based on the book which Therese Dussap wrote in French and later was translated into English by Marie Battersby



and thereafter into Malayalam by Marykutty Chandy. We sisters, eleven in all were divided into three groups and group one got the highest marks. Prizes were distributed and all got Parle Kacha Mango Sweets . We had great fun and we all enjoyed this quiz.

**Quiz on Marie Adelaide de Cice / 26/04/2018 /[ Nirmalalayam, Trivandrum]**

1. Date of Birth of Adelaide de Cice
2. Place of Birth.
3. Date of her Baptism
4. Which Church?.
5. Which is the Briton saying starting with a prayer?
6. Which Congregation did she go to join?
7. Why did she go to Dinan?
8. Whom did she meet there?
9. What happened on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1790?
10. What happened on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1791?
11. What happened on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1791?
12. Where did she stay in Paris first? What is the importance of August 15<sup>th</sup> 1791?
13. Which DHM was guillotined on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1794? Why?
14. What happened on December 24<sup>th</sup> 1800?
15. Marie Adelaide was arrested on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1801. Why?  
As DHM what do we have to do according to Marie Adelaide de Cice?
16. Where did she die in Paris?
17. Which date?
18. Which qualities do you admire in Adelaide?
19. Which are the qualities that your group has?

## Bicentenary celebration of Adelaide de Cice Parangipettai, Cuddalore



The Bi- centenary programme was planned much in advance, keeping in mind the necessary arrangements to be made for the programme. We invited our parish priest, priests from nearby parishes and the religious sisters from nearby congregations. The leaders of the Parish and substations, the youth, the parishioners of Parangipettai substation were also invited. The responsibilities of the Liturgy, the choir, the mass arrangements, the flower arrangement, the power point presentation, the master of ceremony, and food were shared by the sisters. We

also planned to call the girls of our parish and nearby parishes for the celebration, followed by a vocation camp with the girls for the following two days.

As planned the celebration went on well as Vimala gave a very clear and detailed account of Adelaide de Cice and our Society. We then had a beautiful Eucharistic celebration with our Parish priest as the main celebrant and 4 priests concelebrating. The homily was given by a Salesian priest. He explained the life of Adelaide de Cice as he was given a book on the life of Adelaide. He spoke of the trial of Mother de Cice. So many people came for the trial that they had to shift the place of trial as many people gave witness in favor of



Adelaide de Cice. The priest shared that the congregation began during the French revolution when everything was in a turmoil. It is easier to start something when everything is going on well. It takes lot of courage to start a congregation when everything is in turmoil. Mother de Cice had this courage.

The Mass went on beautifully with melodious hymns by the youth choir. After the mass we had a cultural programme by the children from the substations and

Aruloli children. One of the Special Children sang a Dengue awareness song. We had a short Power point presentation on Adelaide de Cice and our Society. Then the vote of Thanks was given by Agnes. All the guests had a sumptuous meal which was enjoyed by all.

## Bicentenary Celebration - Vimalalayam, Ernakulam.

As part of the Bicentenary celebration, the community started a sponsorship programme, an Educational Help for the deserving children of the workers in our Institution. After visiting the houses of the families and scrutinizing the family details the committee chose 10 children. The parents were called for a meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. At the meeting we were able to share about

our Society and the noble gesture of our Founders in inspiring us to start this programme.



On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 an insertion at Moolampilly opened a way to enter into another Parish to introduce our Society. The new extension house is named '**Adelaide Bhavanam**', marking the Bicentenary Celebration.

The Community began the Bicentenary celebration on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Chancellor of the

Archdiocese celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The Priests, religious and the representatives of the Family Units were invited. A festive dinner was arranged.

- Bicentenary celebration in the Parish will be in June 2018.
- The community has decided to have the celebration through the year with different sections ie, College, Hostel, Welfare Centre and the Family members of the sisters.



## Bicentenary Celebration - Gothuruth

*Kunjamini Varghese.*

It was a day of great joy, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018, as we celebrated the Bicentenary of our beloved FOUNDERS – ADELAIDE AND CLORIVIERE in our parish, the Holy Cross Church, Kadalwathuruth, Gothuruth. To add to our joy, our Provincial Philomena D'Sa too was with us just for that great day. We had the Eucharistic celebration at 6 pm by Rev. Dr. Joseph Karikkassery, the Bishop of Kottappuram Diocese. Rev. Fr. Antus Putrhenveetil (our Divya's brother) and the secretary Rev. Fr. Dennis concelebrated. Adelaide picture was given a place of prominence with jasmine flowers.

There was a dance during the entrance procession by the First Communion students of this year, the hymn narrating the charism and the spirit of our Society was composed by Kunjamini Varghese. The introduction about our Society and the life and charism of Adelaide was given by Ancy Joseph and the reading was done by Rita Bernard. The Te Deum was sung in gratitude to



the Almighty. Being Friday evening, following the Holy Mass, we had Adoration and the special prayers to the Holy Cross which is participated in by almost all our parish. We had a simple supper for all who came. The crowd was almost 400. Many expressed their joy and gratitude of participating and sharing. Someone said “ Sisters now we know why you are so simple and ordinary among us”. One mother remarked, “ I wish my daughter had joined your congregation....but she is already a carmelite for almost 10 years. This remark drew my attention that we need to talk about our charism yes, the Gospel of LOVE, everywhere and at all times.



## Bicentenary Celebration - Jowai, Meghalaya

“O Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good”. Psalm 136:1

*Victoria Remy, Celine Raphael  
and Dini William*

The 26<sup>th</sup> April was a red letter day for us because we celebrated 200 years of the death anniversary of our Foundress Marie Adelaide de Cice. We decorated the village church and kept Mother de Cice's photo in front of the altar. Lamps were around her which added more beauty. We had the solemn Eucharistic celebration at 6.30 p.m.



The church was filled beyond our expectations. After the Mass we DHMs (Victoria Remy, Celine Raphael and Dini William) sang 'Holy Virgin and Mother'. Followed by a PowerPoint presentation in which we depicted our Foundress' life and presented the Jowai mission.

Closemary Myntlang, one of the villagers read about our society in Khasi. All the villagers were given tea and cake.

Celine Raphael gave a short introduction about the life of our Foundress which was translated in Khasi by Edmond Myntlang, the chairman of the church. Fr. Antony Manoj, the Parish Priest, in his sermon explained about our foundation, charism and mission.



Next Sunday we invited important people of the village for an agape.. They were all very happy and expressed their gratitude and assured us of their prayer.

We thank God for the gift of Mother de Cice and her total openness to the Spirit to fulfil His plan on this earth, to begin a new way of Religious life. We admire her dedication and commitment. We ask God to give us the grace to imitate her qualities in our day to day life.



## **Bicentenary Celebration - Maria Nilaya, Honavar**

*Anne Valadares*

The Bicentenary of the death of Adelaide de Cice was celebrated in our parish of Honavar with a deep spirit of gratitude to our Triune God for choosing Adelaide de Cice as His instrument to provide for the needs of the Church and the people of God, at a particular time in history in France. The Bishop of Karwar Dr. Derek Fernandes was the main celebrant. The priests from the Deanery and former parish priests together with the present ones were the concelebrants, ten in number. The sisters of the place with lamps preceded the priests during the entrance procession. The lamps were placed at the foot of the altar.



A brief life history of Adelaide was given during the introduction. The offertory procession with meaningful gifts was presented by the community members. During the homily and also at the end, the Bishop appreciated our presence in Honavar and spoke about our Charism, praising the way, we in Honavar, very specially, took up the challenge to meet the changing needs of our mission, according to the signs of time. Also, the reason for the absence of a habit or exterior sign was explained .....

It was a good opportunity to revive the awareness of our special vocation and Charism, in order to live with deeper gratitude and a sense of intense responsibility calling in today's world. Those present came to know our Society's Charism in a deeper way.... After the Eucharist the invited came to Maria Nilaya. Among the invitees were our DHMs and their families from Honavar, and the priests and religious from our Deanery.

We had the joy of having with us DHM's from our Mangalore community. We enjoyed the atmosphere of joy and friendship. Our Provincial, Philomena D'Sa sent a meaningful message, since she was unable to be present for the celebration. It was read at the end of the Mass.



## **Bi Centenary Celebration - ALAPPUZHA**

**“ It is the Lord ”**

We the Vimala Niketan Community had a remote preparation for the Bi Centenary Celebrations before the Parish Celebration as the theme of Our Triduum was on Adelaide. Each one of us took turns each day for the inputs of the Triduum. It helped us to deepen our understanding of Adelaide's life and Our Charism and Spirituality for our times. On 26<sup>th</sup> April we had a special prayer service on Adelaide based on her letters to the DHM.

Our actual celebration was on May 7<sup>th</sup> with a concelebrated Mass in our Parish. All the priests and Religious of our Diocese were invited together with our parishioners, for the Eucharistic celebrations. Monsignor Pious Arattukulam, Vicar General was the main celebrant as both the Bishops were out of station. In the introduction we highlighted the life of Adelaide, and our charism and spirituality. Monsignor in his homily was very appreciative of and grateful for our services in the diocese and the Parish. During the intercessory prayer, with a grateful heart we lifted up to the Lord the whole Society, our life and mission, that we may be enkindled with the fire of her love and zeal. Our parish choir with their melodious hymns made the Eucharistic celebration more meaningful.

After the Mass we shared our joy with our parishioners by distributing some goodies in packets. We were happy to have the priests and religious with us in the community for breakfast. May these celebrations make our life more meaningful in His service.

Thank you

## India Province South Bicentennial Celebration of Adelaide de Cice

### *Jenis Mary*

God comes to us in love, we respond joyfully to the beauty of his perfections in life and death. God of love entered into our lives through our Foundress Adelaide de Cice. He continues to fill our Society with His grace through her powerful intercession. Our constant ‘Yes’ in the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary is the beautiful response to His designs!

Our India Province South, on the feast of the Visitation 31<sup>st</sup> May celebrated the “Life into eternal glory” of our foundress Adelaide de Cice(1749-1818). The theme of the celebration was



“Everything to please God, Nothing for our self satisfaction”. As Daughters of the Heart of Mary each one of us were moved by the Spirit. We recalled the way that our beloved foundress Adelaide de Cice yielded her spirit to the Lord. On the day before her death, she stayed longer in the tribune, her gaze fixed on the Tabernacle and her soul passed quietly away in the peace of the Lord with a look of heavenly joy on her face. Throughout her life “It is the Lord” had been a song of her heart.

She was like that most loved apostles of Christ, always sensitive to the presence of God and had drawn souls to “His” presence.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May at 10.30 a.m, the Episcopal Vicar of Mangalore Diocese Rev. Fr. Pius OCD the main celebrant and 20 other priests, celebrated the Eucharist in the College Auditorium. A vibrant choir enhanced our joy with their heavenly voices singing in different languages. Our sisters were present from different parts of the province. Our faculty members, family members and friends from Mangalore joined us for the Eucharistic celebration and for the Agape. A green campus, an astounding touch of our sisters in the alter decoration, flower arrangements meaningful back drop and logistics, provided us with a conducive atmosphere for the celebration, to praise God and to cherish our call.



It was inspiring to listen to the history, origin and charism of our society and the life of our foundress from religious of different orders. Our own insights aroused on this significant day made us feel the greatness of our vocation and the depth of our spirituality. Adelaide de Cice was an extraordinary person who received extraordinary graces to initiate a new form of religious life. It is through her intercession that God filled each one of us with graces on this occasion was what



was a felt in faith by of all of us! Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever for His marvellous deeds!



Four of our DHM extended a very cordial and warm welcome through a welcome dance. A Power point presentation was prepared by Norah D'Souza and her team. As a mark of this celebration and also to respond to the call of the General Chapter on conserving Ecology two fruit bearing plants were symbolically handed over to

the senior most DHM, Olinda Pereira who in turn handed over one of the plants to the youngest member of the province to remind all of us that the Society began by our founders in 1790 continues to live from one generation to the other. The second plant was planted by Olinda Pereira and watered by the Provincial which symbolises that all the DHM have the responsibility towards the growth and continuation of our Society.



The celebration ended with a festive meal. We thank the Lord for all the blessings showered upon us through the intercession of Adelaide de Cice.

## **Bicentenary Celebration - Mariakam, Ooty**

### **“Everything to please God nothing to satisfy ourselves”- Marie Adelaide**

“ We must never lose sight of what is specially recommended to us namely to be in the world without being of the world...” Adelaide de Cice

As we the DHM's celebrate the 200 years of the glorious day of our dear foundress Adelaide de Cice's entry into heaven, we too joined with great joy and took the opportunity to share our joy with the people of Ooty .On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018, the Mariakam community celebrated the bicentenary of Adelaide's glorious entrance into heaven. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr. Vincent the Parish Priest of St Mary's Church, Ooty. A large number of people from the Parish participated in the Eucharistic celebration. Rani Stephen read out a beautiful introduction explaining about Adelaide de Cice's life and also about our DHM Society. After an inspiring sermon by Fr. Vincent, the Mariakam community sisters joined actively in the offertory procession with the gifts. At the end of the Eucharistic Celebration sweets were distributed to the people.

There after followed a cultural program which was organized in St Mary's Parish Hall. Our Chief Guest for the day was Msgr. V. Christopher Lawrence, the Vicar General of Ooty Diocese. The Parish Hall was filled with Priests, Religious and Parishioners. The programme began with welcoming the guests and the lighting of the lamp by the Vicar General, Parish Priest, Rani and Beulah. The Sponsorship Children then put up a graceful Prayer dance.



In order to share about the life of Adelaide, under the direction of Beulah along with the BED Students, Hostelites, Jesus Club children and others a wonderful Play was enacted. The play depicted the different significant incidents of the birth, life and death of Adelaide. Through the play everyone appreciated her life and also understood the DHM Charism.

The Provincial council member Sunitha then read out the message from Philomena D'Sa the Provincial of India South. Our Chief Guest

shared a few words and also appreciated the mission work done in the diocese of Ooty and very especially at St. Mary's Hill.

Beulah's students from the New Era School performed a beautiful Mohaniattam dance. A song on the greatness of our dear Founder was composed by Beulah and was sung in Chorus by the play team. The Sponsorship children then gave a lively dance performance which was very much appreciated by everyone.



Towards the end of the program a Vote of thanks was given by Rani Stephen and cake were distributed to everyone. All the Priests, Religious and parishioners then joined us for a delicious fellowship meal. We the community members of Mariakam really experienced the grace of God. After the celebration was over at 3 pm we had heavy showers. We really felt that it was a sign that our dear Adelaide was very happy with her daughters' performance at Mariakam.

"It is the Lord" and indeed the credit of a successful and meaningful Bi- centenary celebration goes to our community prayers. The Day the date was fixed for the celebration, the community decided to pray together every day to the Holy Spirit and the Memorare to Our Lady.



## Bicentenary Celebration - Nirmala Nivas, Goa.

The community at Nirmala Nivas celebrated the Bi- centenary of our Foundress' entry into Heaven , with a Thanksgiving Mass on 26th April 2018.



Rev Fr. Olav celebrated the Eucharist and in his homily spoke about the spirituality of the Society.



Seven women, who had expressed a desire to know about our spirituality were initiated as Associates. Fr. Olav prayed over them and gave them a special blessing. The Associates joined the community at breakfast, and then had their first meeting where future plans were discussed.

The day was imbued with a spirit of heartfelt gratitude for God's gift of Marie Adelaide de Cice and the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary..



## Bicentenary celebration - Bijapur

*Prudência Vaz*

My heart is glad and my soul rejoices in the Lord my Saviour, for he has done great things for us in our Bijapur Reunion. It was just right to have this great occasion celebrating the Bicentenary of our beloved Foundress, Marie Adelaide de Cice, in St Anne's Church, Vijayapura Parish. I say this because the readings of the day (He began to send them out) (Mk6:7-13) were so very appropriate with a sure confirmation, that we, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary working in Bijapur Reunion (Indi and Mudhol) believe that we are being ***"Sent on Mission"***, (the Orientations of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of our Congregation). We live this in our day to day life, trusting that ***'It is the Lord'***, in the footsteps of our dear Foundress.

It was on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, that we the DHMs, along with the entire St Anne's Parish congregation joined in thanking the Lord for our Foundress who founded the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary in the midst of turmoil and the suppression of Religious life. The Bicentenary celebration was planned well in advance and hence the celebration became more meaningful and was an inspiration to all those who took part in it. People got to understand our Charism a little better and in a clearer way. It was a very good organized team effort because of

which the function went on well. Rev Father Jerry D’Souza, the mission Superior along with the Parish Priest and three fathers celebrated the Eucharist. Responding to our invitation, the church was full with devotees of Christ (non Catholics) and about 60 Nuns from 9 congregations joined us in thanking the Lord for our Foundress.

The celebration began with the PPT on the Life of our Foundress Marie Adelaide de Cice in the local (Kannada) language which helped the people to understand the life of Marie Adelaide de Cice and the foundation of DHM Society in difficult times. The Eucharist was very meaningful as the Mission Superior in his homily, beautifully connected our Charism to the gospel readings of the day. He asked the DHMs to stand, so that the entire congregation could see us and understand that we do not have a common dress. He explained why it is so, making a reference to the PPT stating the reason of the French revolution during which all practice of Christianity was totally banned. He also said that if M.A.de Cice had to say, “no” and give up, today people would not see DHMs in the Vijaypura parish having this celebration. Lastly, he prayed that we be inspired by the valiant courageous woman Marie A. de Cice and exhorted us to walk in her footstep to serve the poor and the marginalized.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the entire congregation was served snacks and coffee. It was followed by a simple get together for priests and religious in the Community Hall where the DHMs conducted a brief quiz on the life of our Foundress and our Society with just 8 questions. The quiz was to be answered by the sisters congregation wise and the extra group that took part in the quiz was the choir group, who were mostly youth from the parish. The quiz was very much appreciated by the Jesuit fathers as well as some of the sisters who said that this quiz was a great help to know the DHMs a little better. We concluded the celebration with a sumptuous meal. Everyone appreciated the entire celebration. Many people said that it was an inspiring celebration with a meaningful liturgy and simple decorations. Our smiling attire they said added beauty to the celebration.

It was her deep reflections made in silence and her profound hope in the Lord, that made Adelaide see her dream come true. It is the same dream that continues to take birth, as we DHMs working in the midst of a non-catholic population, sent on mission having the smell the sheep as Pope Francis put it, are filled with hope and courage to be available to attend to His sheep, entrusted to us by Him. We, the DHMs working in the Bijapur Reunion wish to live her motto: ***“Everything to please God, and nothing to satisfy ourselves”***, for ***It is the Lord*** who provides everything to us even before we ask. We raise our hearts filled with gratitude to Almighty God, for He has done great things for us. Blessed be His Name forever. Amen.

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