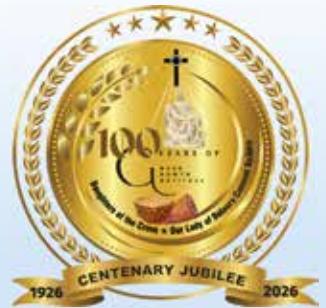




Active Rourkela Province's Abridged News



My dear Sisters and Friends,

We have walked through the path of the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme “**Pilgrims of Hope**” proposed by our former Pope Francis. The Jubilee brought along our way bountiful wealth of Divine graces and blessings. As we draw close to Christmas it is time for us to take stock of those rare spiritual moments as St. James would say in verse 4:8 “come near to God and he will come near to you”.

One of the significant events floods our lives with immense joy was the grace-filled months of November – December 2025, the Canonical Visitation of Superior General to the Province of Rourkela. And during this blessed period the inauguration of the Centenary of the mission of the Daughters of the Cross in Gaibira, unfolded to us the pages of sacred history of God's steadfast love and the pioneering sisters' unwavering faith in the Lord and their resolute dedication and commitment in the mission has left all of in awe and stirred our hearts in holy reverence.

Moving to Christmas, the **Holy Babe** born at Bethlehem is a message of JOY to the whole world; foretold by many prophets over the years and awaited for centuries. During the Christmas season, the great joy of Christ's birth contrasts sharply with the suffering of the Holy Innocents and the hardships of a sudden flight. Thus, from the very beginning, Jesus' mission is marked by the sign of the cross. During this season of peace, let us strive to ensure that no barrier comes between us and those around us.

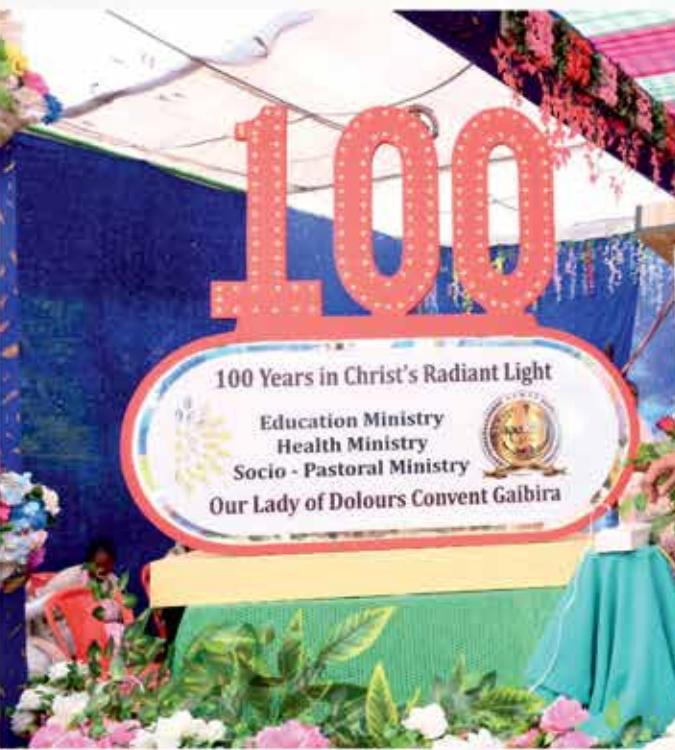
At this great festive season the JOY of Christmas seemed to be challenged by the struggle and suffering of people of five Panchayats i.e. Khatang, Kokda, Alanda, Kesramal and Jhagarpur of Rourkela Diocese. People's ancestral land has been grabbed by OCL with the help of Government. At this time of crisis of existence and identity of so many brothers and sisters of our region, let us place our unwavering trust on God who is known for his steadfast love for his people. “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Is 54:10)

May the Child Jesus renew in us the virtue of a hope that does not disappoint, and may the Holy Family teach us to look to the future with the serene trust of those who know they are in God's hands.

Wish you Happy Christmas and New Year 2026 filled with new surprises, hope and cheer.

Affectionately,

Sr. Flora Lakra, FC
Provincial Superior



Centenary Celebration of Gaibira Mission, Odisha

Your Grace Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur,

Rev. Fathers, Sr. Flora Lakra and the Provincial Council, Sr. Anupama Toppo, and all my dear Sisters, Religious, Benefactors, Friends, and all gathered here,

It is with immense joy and profound gratitude that I stand before you today as we celebrate 100 years of the Gaibira Mission - a century of God's faithfulness, a century of dedicated service and a century of courageous witness to the Gospel through the charism of the Daughters of the Cross.

This mission, planted in 1926 by our pioneering sisters from Liege, Belgium, is a living testament to the transforming power of faith. Three courageous sisters stepped into an unknown land with nothing but a burning missionary zeal and an unshakeable trust in God. They faced hardships, loneliness, and unimaginable challenges, yet they remained steadfast. Their lives were a beautiful expression of what it means to be Daughters of the Cross - women who draw strength from the Paschal Mystery and offer themselves in service to the weakest and most suffering. Their sacrifices laid the foundation for everything we celebrate today, and we honour them with profound gratitude.

Together with them, we extend our deepest gratitude to every sister who has served in Gaibira Community over these 100 years. Generations of our sisters - some remembered, some hidden, some still with us, others gone to their eternal reward - gave their lives quietly and generously. In classrooms, dispensaries, villages, parishes, hostels, and homes, they carried the tenderness of Christ to the people. Their footprints are imprinted in the hearts of the faithful, in the lives of the children educated here, in the families healed and supported, and in the many who found dignity and hope through their presence. Their lives are the true legacy of this mission.

Through their dedication, and with the collaboration of bishops, priests, friends and benefactors, and the people of this region, Gaibira has become a place of education, healthcare, faith formation, pastoral care, and social upliftment. Thousands have found hope and dignity here, and for this we thank God wholeheartedly.

A centenary is not only a celebration of history - it is also a call to the future. The same Spirit that moved our pioneers continues to whisper to us - challenge us today. The world still cries out for compassion, healing, justice, and hope. There are mission territories - some very near, others far - where God is waiting for us to carry His love. Today, I invite all our sisters, especially the younger generation, to rekindle that missionary fire, to step forward with courage, generosity, and openness to the Spirit.

As we thank God for the hundred years of blessings, we entrust the next hundred years and beyond into His hands. May the Gaibira Mission continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and compassionate service for the generations to come

Thank you, and may God bless each of you abundantly.

Sr. Pushpa Purathur Fc
Superior General

GAIBIRA – CENTENARY

Today the 9th December is indeed a memorable day in the calendar of the Daughters of the Cross of the Province of Rourkela and that of the congregation, a day of immense praise and thanksgiving!

Having spent more than a month visiting the 19 communities in the province, among them being Khuntpani near Chaibasa, visited earlier, and this time Kochang, both birth places of the Faith, 150 years and more ago, today I am delighted to be standing on the soil of yet another significant mission, that of Gaibira, established 99 years ago on this day in 1926.

From Kochang looking in the direction of Chaibasa - the forests and hills surely infested with wild animals - I had a glimpse of the life threatening and dangerous terrain, crossed over by our dauntless pioneer sisters. This area from Balasore to Chaibasa and Kesramal to Gaibira was surely not any the less challenging. I was amazed and filled with admiration for our sisters and gratitude to God and to our pioneer sisters, for their selflessness, daring and readiness for hardship, all for the love of God and His Kingdom and eagerness to bring the people of our land India, to the knowledge and love of Jesus.

While listening to the sisters on my visits, I met many of our pioneers of our current missions in our communities who have braved odds and established missions that have been born after 1926, some very senior, others middle aged and some quite young who took pride in saying, "I was a pioneer in.....mission." This filled me with great joy and tremendous hope, not only for the province of Rourkela but hope for the congregation, the church and the world. Congratulations to you dear provincials past and present, Srs Flora, Gemma and Anupama, for the 16 year old/young vibrant province of Rourkela!

Today, while I acknowledge with much gratitude the pioneer sisters of our Gaibira mission who are no more with us, I congratulate and thank all our superiors and all our sisters who have lived in this mission, laboured over the years untiringly, developed and expanded the mission of education, pastoral and health care to this day. The vibrant faith in this area and the many religious vocations that took root here, bear evidence to the efforts of our sisters that have borne fruit.

On this happy occasion, my wish and prayer for you my sisters together with all who collaborate with us in our missions, that we be on fire with the charism of our dear foundress Mother Marie Therese, her vision and zeal and the fearless courage and daring of our pioneer sisters to forge ahead, not merely imitating or replicating works or actions but looking through the lens of the charism, under the Spirit's guidance at the context of our suffering world today, with its calls and challenges and respond generously and enthusiastically. May we all experience the love of God, the strength of Jesus and wisdom of the Spirit and stay close to Mother Marie Therese along the way. Thank you and God bless!

**Sr. Valerie Miranda Fc
General Councillor**

A Grace-Filled Canonical Visitation

The Canonical Visitation of the Rourkela Province, held from 5 November to 13 December 2025, was truly a sacred time of grace, love, and joy. It was a blessed moment in the life of the Province as we joyfully welcomed our Superior General, Sr. Pushpa Purathur fc, and General Councillor, Sr. Valeri Miranda fc, whose presence brought renewal, encouragement, and spiritual strength to every sister and community.

The sisters arrived on 5 November 2025 at St. Joseph's Convent, Hamirpur, the Mother House of the Province. They were warmly received by Sr. Flora Lakra fc, the Provincial Superior, along with the Provincial Councillors and sisters. A beautiful traditional welcome ceremony marked their arrival—hands were ceremoniously washed, garlands and bouquets were offered, and a vibrant welcome procession of candidates and sisters moved rhythmically to the beat of the mandal. The entire Province was filled with excitement and gratitude as we received our beloved leaders.

Following the welcome, the sisters were led to the chapel, where the visitation was entrusted to God in prayer, placing every moment under His loving guidance.

The visitation to the various communities was thoughtfully and well planned. Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Valeri travelled far and wide, visiting communities spread across Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. In each place, they met every sister with warmth, joy, and genuine concern. Their presence created a spirit of family, openness, and deep communion. The time spent together in the communities became moments of sharing, listening, reflection, and renewed commitment.

Throughout the visitation, both sisters remained in good health, carrying out their demanding schedule with remarkable energy and grace. During this blessed period, the Province also joyfully celebrated the birthday of Sr. Valeri Miranda fc and the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Pushpa Purathur fc, moments filled with gratitude, festivity, and thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service.

The visitation concluded with a Thanksgiving Holy Mass, bringing together the fruits of these grace-filled days. As a Province, we felt deeply energised, renewed, and strengthened. This Canonical Visitation was not merely an event, but a profound spiritual experience—an invitation to move forward with fresh zeal, deeper unity, and renewed faith in God's abiding presence among us.

**Sr. Mary Rose Tigga
Hamirpur**

Mission Foundation Day & Diocesan Jubilee Celebration 2025

Mother Parish—Kesramal | October 26, 2025

The **Mission Foundation Day and Diocesan-level Jubilee Celebration of Pilgrims of Hope 2025** were solemnly celebrated at our **Mother Parish, Kesramal**, the cradle of the Gangpur Mission. The day was marked by deep faith, vibrant unity, and heartfelt gratitude for the missionaries and sisters who sowed the first seeds of Christianity in Gangpur.

The celebration began at **7:30 a.m.** with a grand **procession** from two directions—**Laldipa** and **Ramabahal**—as the faithful walked joyfully carrying **parish flags, jubilee flags, crosses, and posters**, symbolizing the arrival of the early missionaries and the journey of faith that continues today.

The pilgrims gathered at the **Holy Missionary Graveyard** and the **HM Sisters' Cemetery**, where prayers and blessings were offered in remembrance of the pioneering missionaries and sisters who dedicated their lives to the growth of this mission. This was followed by a **Eucharistic Adoration**, during which the faithful offered thanksgiving for the century-old journey of faith and renewed their commitment to live as pilgrims of hope in today's world.

The highlight of the day was the **Holy Eucharistic Celebration**, presided over by **Most Rev. Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur**, Bishop of Rourkela, and concelebrated by many priests from different parish. During the liturgy, "**Shraddhāñjali**" (homage) was offered to the **early missionaries and the twelve apostles**, whose faith, sacrifice, and vision laid the foundation of our flourishing Gangpur Mission.

Fr. Telesfore Barwa reverently **read the history of the Gangpur Mission**, recalling its humble beginnings, the tireless efforts and sacrifices of the early missionaries, and the enduring legacy of faith that continues to inspire generations today.

The Inspiring History of the Gangpur Mission

In **1868–1869**, the **Society of Jesus (Jesuit Missionaries)** arrived in **Chotanagpur** from Kolkata. Before their arrival, **Lutheran and Anglican missionaries** were already present in the region. The **Belgian Jesuits** began their mission work among the **Ho Munda people of Singhbhum**, starting in **Chaibasa**. Later, their mission expanded to **Lohardaga, Khunti, and Ranchi**.

Among the missionaries, **Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ (1856–1893)**, stood out as a visionary leader. Through his tireless efforts, the missions of **Ranchi, Barwei, and Biru** flourished. He

defended the rights of the poor and the Adivasis, protecting their lands from exploitation by Zamindars and resolving the **Bethi-Begari (forced labor)** problem. His compassion and justice won the hearts of the people, who lovingly called him "**Chotanagpur ke Prerit**" - **the Apostle of Chotanagpur**.

Though missionaries initially faced restrictions from entering **Biru and Gangpur**, they maintained good relations with the government and eventually gained access to the region. The **Christians of Gangpur** were cared for by missionaries stationed in Biru, who often visited villages like **Rengarikh, Samtoli, and Kurdeg**.

On **13 February 1907**, with the permission of the **Lieutenant Governor of Bengal**, the **King of Gangpur** granted **7.01 dismal of land** for mission work. With the arrival of **Fr. Van Severen, SJ**, on **13 May 1908**, the mission at **Kesramal** was established. Under the leadership of **Fr. Louis Cardon, SJ**, the **first mission station at Kesramal** began in 1908.

To assist the Jesuit missionaries, the **Sisters of the Daughters of the Cross** came from **Chaibasa to Gangpur**. Being foreigners, they initially struggled with language and culture, yet their faith and perseverance helped the mission take deep root.

On **26 November 1909**, **Fr. Van Severen, SJ**, was transferred, and **Fr. Sylvain Grosjean, SJ**, succeeded him at Kesramal. Both these pioneers left an indelible mark on the **Gangpur Mission**. In **October 1910**, **Fr. Desmet, SJ**, came from Samtoli to join them. When the number of priests in Kesramal reached three, **Fr. Grosjean** divided the vast **Gangpur Mission** into **three regions** for better pastoral care.

In **1913**, **Fr. Alois Coutin** arrived to replace **Fr. Desmet, SJ**. The Gangpur Mission soon

extended to **Banai** and **Bamra**, growing steadily. According to **Fr. Grosjean**, there were already **22,000 Catholics** at that time.

The founder of the mission, **Fr. Sylvain Grosjean, SJ**, was called to his heavenly home on **6 September 1915**, followed by **Fr. Edward Allary, SJ**, on **10 July 1918**. Both are buried in **Kesramal**, their resting place overlooking the fruitful mission they had nurtured.

Between **1918 and 1929**, several new parishes were founded:

- **Hamirpur (1918)**
- **Gaibira (1922)**
- **Jhunmur (1926)**
- **Kusumdegi (1929)**

In **1927**, the **Ranchi Mission** became a separate mission, independent from Kolkata, with **Ranchi** as its main center.

From the beginning, the missionaries showed deep respect for **Adivasi rituals, culture, and language**. They worked to eliminate superstitions, witchcraft, and fear of spirits, replacing them with **faith, education, and the teachings of the Gospel**.

In **1944**, **Fr. Edmond Harrison, SJ**, founded the **Congregation of the Handmaids of Mary** to assist in the mission and to empower women spiritually and economically.

After **40 years of Jesuit service**, by **1948**, the number of Catholics had risen to **65,000**. Despite numerous hardships, their faith, commitment, and perseverance bore abundant fruit.

However, in **1945**, due to a shortage of missionaries and financial constraints, the Jesuits decided to entrust the **Gangpur Mission** to another congregation. After consulting the Vatican, the mission was handed over to the

Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

Under the leadership of **Fr. Stanislaus Wald, SVD**, seven SVD Fathers arrived in **Gaibira** in **1948**, taking charge of what was then known as the **Sambalpur Mission**.

In **1951**, the **Diocese of Sambalpur** was formally established, covering **Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir, and Dhenkanal districts**. **Bishop Herman Westermann, SVD**, became its first bishop and initially resided in **Kalunga**.

With the growth of **Rourkela City**, the bishop's residence was moved from Kalunga to **Rourkela in 1964**. After Bishop Westermann's retirement in **1974**, **Bishop Raphael Cheenath, SVD (1974–1979)**, continued the mission's growth.

In **1979**, **Bishop Alphonse Bilung, SVD**, became the **first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Rourkela**, when **Sundargarh District** was separated from Sambalpur. During his tenure, he welcomed many congregations to serve the people and strengthen the mission.

In **2008**, **Kesramal** joyfully celebrated **100 years of mission service**. From **2009 to 2011**, **Bishop John Barwa, SVD**, shepherded the diocese, and on **29 September 2013**, **Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur** became the **third Bishop of Rourkela**.

Today, the **Sambalpur and Rourkela Dioceses** stand as two shining fruits of the **Gangpur Mission**:

- **Bishop Niranjan Sualsingh**, Bishop of Sambalpur, shepherds **24 parishes** with **49,987 faithful**.
- **Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur**, Bishop of Rourkela, guides **44 parishes**, **49,582 families**, and **2,84,582 faithful**.

Over the years, the **Rourkela Diocese** has become a **seedbed of vocations**, sending priests, sisters, and brothers as missionaries to various parts of the world.

Indeed, this is the **beautiful and grace-filled history of the Gangpur Mission** - a living testimony of **faith, sacrifice, and God's enduring love** among His people.

Sr. Pricilla Kindo Fc
Hamirpur

The Balanced Educator Leading with love, learning with purpose

*“A GOOD TEACHER CAN INSPIRE HOPE,
IGNITE THE IMAGINATION AND INSTILL
A LOVE OF LEARNING.*

(BY BRAD HENRY)

The insightful and enriching orientation program was held at St. Xavier's School Doranda on 25th November 2025. The program was organized by Fr. Fuldeo SJ, the Principal of St. Xavier's School in collaboration with Saraswati Book House Publication. Both the schools, St. Xavier's School Doranda, Ranchi as well as Prabhat Tara English Medium School, Dhurwa participated in this program.

The program began with a welcome address by Fr. Fuldeo SJ, the Principal of S. Xavier's School, Doranda and honoring the guest by



Sr. Punam FC, the Principal of Prabhat Tara English medium School. The Chief Speaker of the Teacher's Orientation Programme was Dr. Nisha Singh from Delhi. Fr. Fuldeo SJ welcomed everyone with his encouragement words, highlighting the importance of the session in fostering good educational skills.

The event aimed to provide teachers with the insights and guidance necessary to manage the students effectively and ensure holistic educational experience for students. The session was a perfect blend of learning and reflecting for the future of the institution. The Orientation started with great enthusiasm and all took part. Dr. Nisha began her session with an ice breaking and interesting dance to keep the group alive and active. She conducted various creative activities as well as fun to know our fellow teachers.

She pointed out some of the aspects of classroom management right:

- Importance of P's and C's of good classroom-
- P's –BE: Patient, Prepared, Positive, and Polite.
- C's- BE: Creative, Cooperative, and Collaborative.
- Power of witness and preventive v/s reactive strategies-Scanning the room and noticing pattern, addressing off-task behavior calmly.
- Focusing on preventive techniques and reactive.
- Empathy – feel and experience by listing actively, be Understanding, show empathy,
- Class control Techniques for keeping the students busy by fostering positive reinforcement. Also focused on stress management by doing therapy, spa, exercise, hobby, meditation, yoga, nature, time management, listening music.

Components of work-life balance - Time, stress, technology, leisure. She divided us

into six groups and gave some of the words to choose like- Acceptance, engaging, generous, organized, inspirational, evolving, cooperative, resourceful, caring, dedicated, compassionate, forgiving, kind, adaptable, valuable and to reflect and to be discussed in the group and then shared it in whole. It was worth giving by gaining something from each other. She made realize the super power, a teacher possess. Through the activity on which she made all to write on a sticky paper and paste it on the chart paper and it was read by a teacher. These were some enriching experience for us.

Session concluded by filling the air in the balloons by each individual and inspiring words written on the balloons, following by merry go round dance.

Nevertheless, this session left us a great impact of realization being teachers and what can we deliver for the all round developments for the students and us.

Sr. Regis Lakra FC,
Prabhat Tara Community, Dhurwa.

A Touching Experience in Surmuth Village

We had a unique and memorable experience during our visit to one of the interior villages named Surmuth, located about 30 km from our place. We were invited by a youth who wished to express his gratitude to Fr. Nirmal Thoppo, who had helped him attend the Youth Convention in Kerala. Responding to his request, Sr. Pinky, Sr. Anjana, Fr. Nirmal, and Fr. Celestine Kujur, set out for the village.

Surmuth is an interior, quiet settlement, surrounded by dense forests. The road leading to the village was in poor condition, forcing us to walk a considerable distance on uneven, rough ground. It was challenging, but with

determination we continued and finally reached our destination.

The village covered a vast area, and during our visit we met 7 to 8 families. One particular family deeply touched our hearts. The household consisted of the parents, two sons, and an uncle. The moment we arrived, they welcomed us warmly, though we could sense their worry about how to host us. We reassured them gently, saying that we had come only to meet them and that they need not trouble themselves.

We later realized that the youth who had invited us had not informed his family about our visit. To add to the situation, he and his brother were



Teaching Staff, Prabhat Tara English Medium School, Dhurwa

under the influence of alcohol. The parents felt ashamed and extremely worried. It was painful to witness their concern. We spent time speaking with them, offering comfort and encouragement. Gradually, they became relaxed and peaceful.

One of the boys took us around the surroundings- the beautiful forests, flowing streams, and fields. We felt refreshed by the beauty of God's creation. Meanwhile, the mother struggled to prepare lunch, so we helped her in the kitchen. She opened her heart to us, sharing her sorrow. She missed the presence of a girl child at home. The boys drank excessively, never listening to their parents, and she felt helpless and alone. Her silent suffering moved us deeply. She gently requested us to pray for her family.

We then visited another elderly couple who had no children. They welcomed us warmly and shared about their life. Despite their challenges, they were good-hearted people. We prayed with them before leaving.

Throughout the day, we continued visiting families-each with their own story, their joys, and their struggles. It was a blessing to reach such a remote place deep within the forest. The peaceful atmosphere, simplicity, and sincerity of the people touched our hearts. They eagerly listened to our words and insisted that we share our thoughts and guidance.

Before we departed, the villagers walked with us for some distance and generously offered whatever they had-rice, vegetables, and other items-as a token of their love. We returned home safely, carrying not just gifts, but deep reflections within our hearts.

Our visit helped us understand the hardships people face in remote villages. Many parents are abandoned emotionally by their own children, and excessive drinking has become a painful reality. It is the parents who silently suffer.

This experience taught us the value of patience, compassion, and presence. We realized how much people long for someone simply to listen, encourage, and pray with them.

Sr. Pinky Fc & Sr. Anjana Fc
Champa

Journey of Hope to Rourkela

The Jashpur diocese decided to undertake a pilgrimage, and the destination chosen was Raukela. There are eight deaneries in the Jashpur diocese-Ghagra, Gholeng, Saraitoli, Musgutri, Tamamunda, Udaipur, Duldula, and Ginabahar. On 27th October 2025, Sunday, the entire Jashpur Diocese Crusveer animators began their

spiritual journey toward Raurkela. Each deanery arranged its own travel, and nearly 50 or more animators joined from each unit. We belonged to Saraitoli deanery, which consists of three parishes and two substations. Our journey began at 4:30 a.m., with a prayer and wishes for a happy and blessed trip. Nine animators travelled together from our group in one vehicle.

The early morning journey was filled with joy as we admired the beauty of God's creation-the forests, mountains, rivers, and waterfalls. Our teachers were excited, as it was their first visit to Raurkela. We, Sisters Pinky Reena kullu and Anjana Pushpa Xalxo, along with our guide, Fr. Nirmal Toppo, Director of Crusveer for Saraitoli deanery, accompanied us. Being from Rourkela ourselves, everyone looked up to us for guidance throughout the journey.

We reached Rourkela, Hamirpur, at 9:00 a.m., where around 400 animators had already gathered. Members of the Catholic Sabha and Mahila Sangh welcomed us warmly and guided us for refreshments. Shortly after, we joined the rosary procession led by the Hamirpur parish to the Cathedral.

At the Cathedral, we were welcomed by Fr. Bernard Lakra, the Vicar General, of Rourkela along with other priests and committee members. Their melodious songs, colourful bouquets, and warm smiles made the welcome truly memorable. Since we arrived a little late, after a short tea break, we directly participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration, with Fr. Bernard Lakra as the main celebrant and Fr. Ernes, In-charge of Crusveer, as the co-celebrant.

After Mass, Fr. Ernest delivered the vote of thanks, and Fr. Bernard also expressed his gratitude for the presence of all the animators. Lunch was beautifully arranged, and we were delighted to meet our sisters from various places.

Our next visit was to Maria Pahar, the shrine of Mother Mary. We prayed the rosary there with special intentions. We were deeply inspired to see people praying with devotion-kneeling, lighting candles, and entrusting their wishes to Mother Mary.

We also had the opportunity to visit the International hockey stadium, an impressive international arena that left everyone surprised and admiring its grandeur. From there, we proceeded to Kesramal Parish, which had just concluded the Foundation Day of Gangpur Mission the previous day. It was a blessing to witness the missionary spirit alive in that place.

Our final stop was at Bihabandh Parish, where we spent meaningful time reflecting on God's creation and the beauty of the mission centres. From there, we began our journey back home and reached safely.

This pilgrimage brought great joy, new experiences, and abundant blessings to all—especially to those visiting Rourkela for the first time. Many were happy to identify us as the Hamirpur sisters, and we joyfully accompanied everyone throughout the trip.

In this Year of the Pilgrimage of Hope, our hearts are filled with gratitude for this grace-filled journey. We return strengthened in faith, united in prayer, and renewed in our mission as pilgrims of hope for Christ.

Sr. Anjana Fc
Champa

Diocesan Youth Convention 2025

The Pratap High School Campus in Gohaling came alive with colour, energy, and youthful enthusiasm as nearly 3,000 young people gathered for the Diocesan Youth Convention 2025. Held from 18th to 20th October, the

convention embraced the theme “Ambition of the Living God”, drawing youths from across the diocese into a powerful experience of faith and fellowship.

The convention began with a majestic Grand Procession, symbolizing unity and devotion. The Jubilee Cross led the way, followed by the Holy Bible, the ICYM flag, the Diocesan flag, and the denaries flags. Thousands of youths marched in harmony, chanting songs and slogans that filled the air with spiritual vibrancy.

Following the flag-hoisting ceremony, the ICYM anthem was sung with deep enthusiasm. Fr. Deshpal, Principal of Pratap High School, welcomed the participants warmly, and Fr. Dilip Minj, Dean of Gholeng Denery, offered an inspiring message, urging the youths to become fearless witnesses of God's love. Several resource persons further enriched the gathering with talks encouraging the young minds to live out their faith boldly and joyfully.

The second day marked a colourful celebration of Adivasi culture. Youths arrived in their traditional attire, transforming the campus into a vibrant showcase of indigenous heritage. This initiative reminded them of the richness of their roots and the importance of preserving their traditions, languages, and customs.

The ground buzzed with excitement as the participants shared stories of their culture, exchanged experiences, and learned from one another. The joyful atmosphere-filled with laughter, music, and lively conversation-became a testament to unity in diversity.

Throughout the convention, the youths engaged in meaningful activities that deepened their understanding of faith. A Bible Quiz on St. John's Gospel, led by Fr. Amit Kuchur, Sr. Shanta Grace, and Sr. Vaishali, tested the participants' knowledge and enthusiasm for Scripture. A

debate session, moderated by Fr. Paul Roshan and youth leaders, sparked thoughtful dialogue on issues relevant to young people today.

Motivational talks by Bishop Emmanuel Kerketta, Fr. Mukti Prakash, Fr. Dilip Minj, Gladson Dungdung, and Mr. Gaurav Kullu inspired the youths to be courageous, grounded in faith, and confident in their identity.

Each evening concluded with creative cultural performances by different groups, followed by moments of prayer, worship, and adoration, allowing the participants to encounter God more deeply.

The convention concluded with the Youth Flag and Jubilee Flag Lowering Ceremony, held with respect, gratitude, and solemnity. The closing prayer strengthened the resolve of every young participant to continue living out the values of leadership, service, and faith.

Among the many moments of inspiration, one line echoed strongly in my heart:

“Christ is the center of my life.”

This message reminded every young person that faith becomes meaningful when lived through love, service, and purpose. God calls each one to walk with courage, purity, and commitment, becoming true witnesses of the Living God.

**Sr.Surujanna Besra FC
Baghima, Jashpur**

Nurturing Nature

The campus of St. Joseph's Convent, Murkia witnessed a vibrant and meaningful environmental initiative on 27 October 2025, as the Sisters, teachers, and students joined hands for the annual Tree Plantation Drive. This event, which has become a cherished tradition in the

institution, once again reminded everyone of the responsibility to protect and preserve our common home.

The programme began with a short yet heartfelt prayer, seeking God's blessings for the land, the saplings, and for all those who would nurture them. The serene atmosphere set a reflective tone, encouraging everyone to appreciate the beauty and gift of nature.

Addressing the gathering, Sr. Roshni spoke on the importance of planting and protecting trees. She emphasized that trees are not only essential for maintaining ecological balance but also serve as a symbol of hope for future generations. Her message inspired the students and teachers to view the activity not merely as a task, but as a meaningful contribution to the environment.

Following the address, each participant-sisters, teachers, and students-received a sapling. With joy and enthusiasm, they moved to various parts of the campus to plant the young trees. This year, a variety of saplings such as neem, mango, litchi, and guava were planted, adding diversity to the school's greenery. As each person carefully placed their sapling into the soil, they also made a simple yet sincere promise: to care for it, water it, and protect it as it grows.

The event was filled with a sense of unity and shared purpose. Smiles, excitement, and the spirit of teamwork were visible everywhere. Like every year, the Tree Plantation Drive not only beautified the campus but also strengthened the bond among the school community as they worked together for a noble cause.

The initiative concluded with a message of hope—that these saplings, though small today, will one day stand tall, offering shade, fruit, and fresh air to many. The school continues to encourage such activities to foster environmental awareness and instill in students a lifelong love for nature.

**Sr. Asha Amrita Toppo Fc
Murkia**

Annual Exhibition 2025

The Annual Exhibition of St. Joseph's Convent School, Murkia was held on 7 November 2025 with great enthusiasm and active participation from both students and teachers. The entire programme was organised under the able guidance and dynamic leadership of our Principal, Sr. Josline FC, who continuously inspires both teachers and students to strive for excellence and to carry out every task with dedication and perfection.

The exhibition showcased a wide range of subjects, including Science, Mathematics, Literature, Social Studies, Computer Science, Geography, History, Environmental Studies, Art and Craft. Students from every class contributed creatively, making the event vibrant, informative, and educational. Parents and students from neighbouring schools also visited the exhibition, making it a well-attended and memorable occasion.

The Chief Guest of the day was Fr. Albinus Kiro. He was warmly welcomed at the school entrance by the school band and escorted by the Principal and the Sisters at 8:30 a.m. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and wisdom, followed by the unfurling of the school flag, which formally inaugurated the Annual Exhibition 2025. A graceful prayer dance performed by the students added beauty and devotion to the ceremony.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the guests and visitors moved through the exhibition stalls. Students enthusiastically presented their models, charts, experiments, and creative displays. The Science section was one of the major highlights, featuring impressive models on renewable energy, human anatomy, environmental conservation, and various scientific experiments.

The Art and Craft corner drew admiration for its colourful paintings, handmade decorations, and beautifully crafted items prepared by the students. Each display reflected the creativity, imagination, and hard work of the young learners.

Parents appreciated the innovative ideas, teamwork, and confidence of the students. Their encouraging feedback added joy to the efforts put in by the teachers and students.

The Annual Exhibition 2025 of St. Joseph's Convent School, Murkia concluded on a high note, marking it as a grand success. The Principal, Sr. Josline FC, congratulated all the students and teachers for their dedication, creativity, and tireless hard work in making the event truly remarkable.

**Sr. Roshni Kujur Fc
Murkia**

A Journey Marked by Faith, Tears, and Deep Reflection

Karundabeda parish, located in the Diocese of Gumla in Jharkhand, is a historical and faith-filled place where pilgrims experience God's mercy, love, and divine presence. Those who visit this sacred ground often return with a profound sense of compassion, reverence, and spiritual awakening.

To understand the significance of this widely known pilgrimage centre, it is important to recall the heart-breaking event that took place in 1994. At that time, Fr. Joseph Dungdung was the parish priest, Fr. Lawrence Kujur served as the assistant parish priest, and Bro. Amar Anup Indwar was the regent. The parish also ran a school and boys' hostel under their care.

A serious issue arose when a hostel boy secretly brought a girl inside the hostel, disturbing the

discipline and negatively influencing the other students. Despite repeated corrections from the headmaster and later from the priests, the boy refused to obey. He was eventually asked to leave the hostel and continue as a day scholar. Angered and seeking revenge, he gathered a group of friends from outside.

On the night of 2 September 1994, around midnight, the boy and his gang-armed with axes, swords, and sticks-arrived at the presbytery. Pretending that someone had severe stomach pain, they requested Fr. Joseph to open the door for medicine. When Father stepped out with compassion, the group overpowered him and began beating him mercilessly. Though he tried to escape, he was dragged back and brutally attacked, sustaining deep wounds to his chest, stomach, and head.

The attackers then searched for the other priest and the brother, and all three-holy and consecrated servants of God-were killed with unimaginable cruelty.

This tragic news spread across the world. Three dedicated religious men, who had offered their lives in loving service, were martyred on that fateful night. Their sacrifice transformed Karundabeda into a pilgrimage centre of deep faith for countless devotees.

This year, the Mahila Sang of Phalsa Parish decided to make a pilgrimage to Karundabeda to pay homage and strengthen their faith. On 12 October 2025, a total of 350 mothers, accompanied by the parish priest and two sisters, set out for this spiritually significant journey.

At 6:00 a.m., the faithful gathered in the church, prayed together, and began the pilgrimage. villagers arranged their own vehicles. The journey was filled with rosaries, hymns, and prayers to Mother Mary. After several hours of travel, the group reached Karundabeda at 11:15 a.m.

Upon arrival, the pilgrims had a devotional procession and prayer before entering the parish gate. They first visited the grotto and then proceeded to the site where the priests and brother were martyred. Many mothers were moved to tears as they witnessed the preserved rooms, the photographs, and the untouched presbytery where the tragedy took place. The emotional weight of the place could be felt deeply.

The graves of the three martyrs are located in the church, where the pilgrims paused to pray with reverence and gratitude.

At 1:30 p.m., the Holy Mass was celebrated. The parish priest, Fr. Albinus Kiro SVD, delivered a touching homily, reminding parents of their sacred duty: “To take care of your children, you must guide them. Teach them to obey and respect their elders.”

After Mass, the group shared lunch together. With hearts filled with a mix of sorrow, reverence, and renewed faith, they returned home.

The Mahilas' pilgrimage to Karundabeda was not merely a journey; it was an encounter with history, sacrifice, and grace. It touched hearts, strengthened faith, and reminded everyone of the price some have paid in their commitment to serving humanity. Such pilgrimages continue to inspire the faithful to walk closer with God and carry the flame of faith into their families and communities.

Sr. Tarcisia Fc
Phalsa

A Journey of Grace

My pilgrimage journey began on 15 August 2025, travelling with Sr. Susan and Sr. Nirupoma. After staying overnight at St. Beronique, we set out at 2:30 a.m. to join the larger group of pilgrims. At the city square, twelve buses

stood ready, carrying around 550 pilgrims from different parts of the Diocese of Liège—both French- and Flemish-speaking. Together we travelled towards Charleroi, united in faith and filled with joyful anticipation.

When we reached Lourdes, I felt as though heaven touched the earth. That evening, we visited the sanctuary quietly, without many pilgrims around. A deep peace filled my heart as I gazed at Our Lady, imagining the tender moments of her apparitions to St. Bernadette. The lively river flowing beside the grotto brought to mind young Bernadette wandering along the hills, collecting firewood or tending cattle, never knowing that she would one day encounter the Mother of God.

Across the river stands a majestic statue of St. Bernadette, marking the place where she first saw the Lady. Above the grotto rises the grand Basilica, and beneath it lies the original chapel, preserved with devotion. I was blessed to attend Mass there, surrounded by a sacred history woven with faith, healing, and countless prayers.

The spring water continues to flow fresh and clear, channelled thoughtfully for pilgrims to collect or use in the healing baths. The entire sanctuary is serene, holy, and truly mesmerizing.

Each morning, before beginning the day, I visited Our Lady and prayed the rosary for various intentions. We participated in adorations and Masses at the vast Underground Basilica of St. Pius X, where thousands of pilgrims prayed in different languages. Though diverse in culture and speech, we felt united—as one praying Church.

We also attended Mass at the grotto and visited the blessed spring personally. In the evenings, we joined the Universal Rosary procession, holding candles as the statue of Mother Mary was carried ahead of us. Praying together in many languages under the gentle glow of candlelight was a

profound experience. We made our confessions, prayed the Stations of the Cross in groups, and spent time reflecting on God's love.

One day, I joined the sick, the aged, and the children. We went to the mountains for a day of prayer and joy-sharing the Word of God, singing, dancing, and encouraging one another. We also visited the humble home of St. Bernadette's family and her aunt's house, walking in the footsteps of the young saint.

I was deeply moved by the care given to the sick and aged. Unlike other pilgrimages where mostly the strong and able travel, Lourdes welcomes the weak with extraordinary tenderness. The sick were lovingly assisted everywhere and encouraged to participate fully. Young volunteers served as stretcher-bearers, wheelchair assistants, and helpers with joyful hearts. They also had their own activities—prayers and lively programs—to lift the spirits of others. After days filled with grace, we returned on 22 August 2025, carrying home hearts full of gratitude.

Marian Pilgrimage to Banneux

Later, I participated in the Marian Pilgrimage to Banneux with Sr. Nirupama. We were invited to assist the sick and suffering during this special Triduum Pilgrimage organized every year by the Diocese of Liège. Banneux, just 45 minutes from Liège, is known for its deep spiritual history.

On 15 January 1933, Our Lady appeared to Mariette Beco, an 11-year-old girl, revealing herself as the "Virgin of the Poor." She said she had come to console the sick and suffering and asked Mariette to "pray hard." There were eight apparitions, and like Lourdes, Banneux has a spring. During one apparition, Our Lady told Mariette to dip her hand into a small puddle from a spring, saying, "This spring is reserved for all nations—to relieve the sick." Since then, many healing miracles have been associated with it.

The Church officially approved the apparitions in 1949.

At the sanctuary, we stayed in spacious accommodations with chapels, prayer rooms, activity halls, and a large refectory. I joined as a volunteer and began by helping the elderly with their suitcases, arranging rooms, and being responsible for the cleanliness of my allotted floor. Working with other volunteers, I assisted an African lady-helping her bathe, dress, and settle comfortably.

Throughout the pilgrimage, blessings of the sick, adorations, Masses, confessions, rosaries, and Stations of the Cross took place. We pushed the sick in wheelchairs to each event, served them meals, spoke with them, and listened to their stories. Through these simple acts, I felt I was serving God with my hands and heart.

I learned to be more patient, gentle, and compassionate with those who depend on others. Their joy, hope, and faith inspired me. Each night, though tired, I went to bed with a grateful and content heart. Living among people who long for God's grace was a blessing, and I admired those who tirelessly organize the programs. I believe every pilgrim encountered God through Mary-just as I did.

Sr. Rita Gidhi Fc
Jean Habet, Filles de la Croix, Liege.

Witness National Youth Convention 2025

Attending the National Youth Convention 2025 at the Divine Retreat Centre, Kerala was nothing short of a spiritual pilgrimage. As the Deanery Youth Coordinator, I had the privilege of accompanying 30 spirited youths from Sundergarh Deanery, and every moment with them was both humbling and inspiring. The

theme, "WITNESS," came alive in the prayers, songs, smiles, and even the nervous excitement of the young participants.

From the very first day, I was struck by the energy and diversity of the gathering. Nearly 5,000 youths from across India dressed in colourful traditional attire, reflecting the rich cultural mosaic of our country. Watching the Odisha youths proudly wave their state flag during the inauguration, I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging, faith, and hope. One young girl beside me whispered, "I feel like we are part of something bigger than ourselves," and I felt the same-the Church, the youth, and God's grace, all connected in that moment.

The days were filled with prayer, learning, and reflection. One morning, during the healing prayer, I noticed a boy who had been silent all week. He came forward, tears streaming down his face, as he received prayer from the priest. Witnessing a young soul opening completely to God's love was humbling beyond words. That moment stayed with me; it was a reminder of why we accompany youth, not just as leaders, but as witnesses of God's mercy.

Confession was another deeply moving experience. Priests were seated in quiet corners of the lush gardens, and I watched as youths approached with hesitation, then walked away with lightened hearts and radiant smiles. I found myself walking among them, offering encouragement, and seeing first hand how God's grace can reach hearts in unexpected ways. One young boy came up and shyly said, "I feel like I've been carrying this burden alone, but now I'm free." I silently thanked God for allowing me to witness that freedom.

Evenings brought a different kind of joy. Cultural programs and musical performances made the campus lively. I will never forget the moment when our Odisha Region led the Mass choir.

Standing there, listening to the harmonies of my youths filling the hall. Their dedication and devotion were not just performance-hey were prayer in motion. Afterward, a teacher came up and said, "Your choir touched my heart; I could feel the Spirit in their voices." I knew then that this week was leaving lasting marks on everyone.

The closing ceremony was both solemn and joyful. Watching the flags being respectfully lowered and handed over to Fr. Chetan, the National Youth Coordinator of CCBI, I felt a mixture of pride and nostalgia. Hon'ble Shri Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya and the only Catholic Chief Minister in India, joined us for Mass and addressed the youth. When he spoke about witnessing Christ wherever they are-in schools, homes, and communities-I saw heads nodding, eyes shining, and young hearts taking the call seriously. I realized that this convention was planting seeds that would grow far beyond Kerala.

Walking alongside the youths throughout the week, I laughed with them, prayed with them, and even shared quiet moments of reflection. Their energy, sincerity, and openness to God's grace were profoundly inspiring. Many hearts were healed, many spirits renewed, and I too left transformed, carrying memories that will remain etched in my heart forever.

This convention, held in the Jubilee Year, was not just an event-it was a God-filled journey of transformation, joy, and witness. Being part of it, walking with these young souls, and seeing God at work in their lives reminded me that faith is alive, vibrant, and beautifully contagious. I am deeply blessed to have experienced it first-hand.

**Sr. Josline FC,
Murkia**

Journeying with Youth

With deep joy and gratitude, I take this opportunity to share my enriching experience at the Diocesan -level Youth Convention held in Jamshedpur from 18th to 21st October 2025. The program was organized with the purpose of enriching the faith life of our young people, guiding them towards moral values, leadership skills and a deeper sense of responsibility towards families and the church. A total of 14th enthusiastic youths participated from Siadhih Parish.

The convention began with an inaugural prayer invoking God's blessings for the success of the program. The resource persons welcomed the participants with warm greetings and motivated them to make the best use of the sessions. The youths were filled with excitement and a spirit of learning as they prepared themselves for three days of meaningful interaction, reflection and growth throughout the convention. The participants attended various sessions based on personal development, spirituality, discipline, teamwork, moral values and service. The resources speakers shared real life experiences and inspiration deeply on their own lives. They especially emphasized the importance of prayer, positive thinking and living a life ordered in compassion and kindness. Interactive group discussions provided the youth with an opportunity to express their thoughts freely, listen to others and understand different perspectives. They also took part in group activities like action songs, creative presentations and team building games. These activities helped them to grow in self-confidence, cooperation, unity and leadership. The cultural evening added color and joy to the program, allowing the youth to exhibit their talents in singing, dancing and acting. The spirit of friendship and togetherness was clearly visible throughout events. The participants expressed great satisfaction and gratitude for the enriching experience. They felt motivated

to lead a disciplined value-based life, to help others and to become responsible members of others and society. Many youths shared that this convention taught them importance to time, respect, unity and staying connected with God in every situation of life. Convention was very meaningful journey of learning, reflection, and personal growth for every participant. It was held as Diocese label. My God continue to bless our youth and guide them to become shining examples of love service and responsibility.

Sr. Prativa Ekka Fc
Siadihi

Foundation Day Celebration at Crus Putri Niwas , Sogra- Joyful Witness of Unity and Charism

The 8th of September was a truly joyful and grace-filled day for the community of Crus Putri Niwas, Sogra, as we celebrated our Foundation Day in an atmosphere of prayer, gratitude, unity, and festivity. The entire community was filled with enthusiasm from a week before the celebration, and a beautiful spirit of togetherness could be felt throughout our compound.

The days leading up to the celebration were busy and blessed. All the postulants joyfully came together to prepare for this important occasion. With great dedication and teamwork, they were involved in decorating the house, the church, and the surroundings. Flowers, banners and lights added beauty and colour to the entire campus. Side by side, we dedicated our time for practice of hymns, filling the air with melodious singing, spreading a festive and prayerful vibe throughout the compound. Every small effort made by each member reflected love for the congregation and devotion to our Foundress, Mother Marie Thérèse.

The spirit of the celebration was not limited to our community alone. The joy extended to the parish and the school as well. The parishioners were warmly invited and they responded with great enthusiasm. The school children and teachers, along with parish members, gathered together for the Holy Mass on 8th September. It was indeed a moment of grace as the Eucharistic celebration became the centre of our thanksgiving. United as one family, we offered our praise and gratitude to God for His faithfulness and continuous blessings upon our congregation.

Soon after mass there was a short felicitation programme by parishners, students and our postulants. The performances were simple yet powerful, conveying the message of love, service, sacrifice, and total dedication to God's people. It became a beautiful platform to share with others the spirit and the vision of our dear Foundress, Mother Marie Thérèse, and the mission of the Daughters of the Cross in the world today.

This celebration became a rich source of unity and support. It strengthened our bond with the local community, the parishioners, and the school family. It helped others to know more about our congregation and to appreciate the values that guide our mission. Once again, we were reminded that our presence among the people is not only a service, but also a witness of God's love and compassion. With hearts full of thanksgiving, we entrust ourselves and our mission to God, asking Him to guide and strengthen us as we continue to walk in the footsteps of our Foundress and in the way of the Cross.

**Sr. Anjina Barla
Crus Puti Niwas, Sogra**

A Moment of Grace, Joy and Renewal

The atmosphere of prayer, and joyful preparation filled our community as we awaited the canonical visitation of our Superior General, Sr. Pushpa Purathur, and General Councillor, Sr. Valerie Miranda. Every sister, postulant was filled with enthusiasm, united in spirit to welcome our beloved guests with love and reverence. The long-awaited day finally arrived on Wednesday, 12th November 2025, bringing with it a profound sense of grace and celebration.

On Wednesday morning, the entire convent campus resonated with happiness and excitement. Beautiful rangoli designs were carefully created at the gate, expressing our heartfelt welcome. Parishioners, teachers, students, and sisters stood in a long line, clapping their hands eagerly as they awaited their arrival. The Parishners beautifully dressed in traditional attire, added color and vibrancy to the occasion. The rhythmic beat of the nagara (traditional drum) echoed through the air, spreading an infectious spirit of joy all around.

As our esteemed guests arrived, the children clapped joyfully, and the mothers of the parish welcomed them with traditional cultural dances. We accompanied them dancing from the gate to the convent entrance, expressing our gratitude and happiness in our own unique way. At the convent door, the sisters ceremoniously washed their hands, performed aarati and applied chandan, and placed garlands around their necks as a symbol of love, respect, and warm hospitality. A brief photo session followed, capturing these precious and memorable moments.

Thereafter, we proceeded to the chapel, where a prayer service was led by Sr. Manjula Minj, the Superior of the house. The atmosphere was deeply prayerful and serene, as we entrusted

the entire visitation to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Then we moved to the parish premises where a welcome programme was held under the guidance of the parish priest, Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta SJ, along with Fr. Alexius Kindo and Deacon Vinay Kujur. A melodious welcome song was presented by the teachers and students, and the parishioners offered a beautiful cultural dance. In his address, Parish Priest spoke meaningfully about the spirit of collaboration and the long-standing relationship between the Daughters of the Cross and the Jesuits, highlighting the shared mission in serving God's people. His words came as a pleasant and touching.

The following day began with a Thanksgiving Holy Mass, filled with gratitude for God's abundant blessings. We the postulants, with great joy and excitement, were ready to welcome the Superior General and Councillor to our formation house. Our simple yet meaningful programme began with a welcome song, followed by a skit and a poem recitation based on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Though the programme was short, it was deeply touching and spiritually enriching. Afterward, the sisters had a personal and encouraging group interaction with us, which strengthened our bond and renewed our zeal for religious life.

This blessed visitation has left an indelible mark on our hearts. It encouraged us to reflect more deeply and to take greater responsibility in living out our vocation with sincerity and dedication. It was truly a significant milestone in the life of our community - a visible sign of our spiritual growth and unity. The presence, guidance, and inspiring words of our Superiors enlightened our minds and strengthened our desire to live more faithfully in the spirit and charism of our congregation.

This memorable visit has been a true blessing and a source of renewed inspiration for all of us. We carry forward this grace-filled experience with greater joy, fidelity, and commitment to God's mission, striving each day to walk confidently as true Pilgrims of Hope.

Postulants
Crus Putri Niwas, sogra

NEWS OF JYOTI NIWAS CONVENT SUNDARGARH

Teacher's Day Celebration

Theme: "Education is the light, and teachers are the lamps that carry it."

Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5th Sept 2025 with great joy and gratitude at St. Joseph's Convent School, Sundargarh, where students came together to honour the guiding lights of their lives-their teachers. The theme of the celebration, "Education is the light, and teachers are the lamps that carry it," reflected the spirit of the entire program, reminding everyone of the invaluable role teachers play in shaping the future.

The celebration began at 9:30 AM, as students warmly escorted all the teachers to the school hall. Their smiles, respect, and enthusiasm filled the atmosphere with a sense of appreciation and love. The program started with a short prayer by the students, seeking God's blessings for their teachers. During this moment, teachers offered shradhanjali to the portrait of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, whose life and values continue to inspire the teaching community across the nation. This was followed by a beautiful and colourful cultural program presented by students. Dance performances, songs, skits, and heartfelt speeches lit up the stage, expressing their gratitude. Every performance reflected

the deep admiration the students hold for their teachers. Adding meaning and depth to the celebration, our respected Principal, Sr. Sukanti Tirkey, delivered an inspiring speech. She beautifully explained the importance of teachers, their responsibilities, and the noble role they play in shaping the character and future of every student. Her words added meaning and reflection to the ceremony.

The day was entirely dedicated honouring teachers. Students expressed their love and respect by offering flower bouquets, handmade cards, and small gifts, each symbolizing their heartfelt appreciation. After the school program, a special lunch was arranged for both teaching and non-teaching staff at Sujata Restaurant. It was a wonderful time for the staff to relax, share memories, and enjoy each other's company in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The celebration concluded with smiles, gratitude, and a renewed understanding of how deeply teachers touch the lives of their students. The event beautifully reflected the theme-indeed, education is the light, and it is our teachers who carry this light forward, guiding every child towards a brighter tomorrow.

Sr. Evanjaline Tete FC

In God's Love we Celebrate

Congregational Feast day was celebrated on 8th Sept 2025 with hearts filled with gratitude and praise to God in St. Joseph's Convent School, Sundargarh. The sacred celebration was preceded by nine days of novena prayers, during which the sisters and the students prepared themselves spiritually through prayer, reflection and thanksgiving. Each day of the novena offered moments of grace, inviting all to deepen their love for Christ and to renew their love for Christ and to renew their commitment to the mission of the Cross.

The Feast day dawned with an atmosphere of profound reverence as the community gathered for the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev.Fr. Benjamin. The Eucharist, the heart of Christian life, became a moment of deep communion a sacred offering of thanksgiving for God's fidelity and the congregation's journeys of faith through the years.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, a felicitation ceremony was held by the teachers and the students to express appreciation and gratitude to the sisters for their tireless dedication and witness to the Gospel. The community was privileged to participate in the Holy mass for the second time with the parishners. The day concluded with a joyful fellowship meal, where priests, religious and lay faithful gathered in a spirit of unity and joy. The festive atmosphere reflected the warmth of community and the beauty of shared faith. It was truly a celebration of God's goodness, a reminder that the Cross, through a symbol of sacrifice is also a sign of love, victory and life in abundance.

May this feast renew in every Daughters of the Cross the grace to live the spirit of our Foundress with renewed Zeal, to love without counting the cost and to carry the Cross with faith filled joy for the glory of God and the good of all.

Sr. Alma Ekka FC

GIRL CHILD DAY

On 19th October 2025, our parish joyfully celebrated International Girl Child Day to honour the worth, dignity, and potential of every girl. The day started with the meaningful Holy Eucharistic celebration specially dedicated for the girl Children. After the there was special programme arranged to mark the day. The celebration began with a warm welcome to all the girls and the distinguished guests - Sr. Suchita, Sr. Bimla, and Mrs. Bernadette - who

served as the resource persons for the day. The program featured inspiring sessions on "Ladki Bachon ka Mahatva" (the importance of girl children), "Good Manners," and "Ladki Bachon ka Adhikar aur Suraksha" (the rights and safety of girls). Three students then delivered heartfelt speeches expressing how blessed and proud they feel to be girls, which filled the atmosphere with confidence and joy.

This was followed by a delightful entertainment program presented by St. Joseph's Convent school, St. Theresa's school, and St. Mary's school, showcasing the talents of our students. To add more excitement, various fun games such as musical chair, solving statistics, bomb blast, and one-leg raise were organized. The winners were later honoured during the prize distribution ceremony, and the celebration concluded with a delicious lunch. The day ended on a cheerful note as everyone returned home inspired and proud to be part of such a memorable event celebrating girlhood and empowerment.

Sr. Anna Pushpika Minj FC

Eight days to Elevate, Journey within: Discover, Grow and Transform

"Be still and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10

We were truly blessed to have eight grace-filled days of our Annual Retreat for the Junior and the finally professed Sisters at Jyoti Niwas Convent, Sundargarh from 28th sept to 6th October 2025. It was a sacred time of silence, prayer, and renewal - a journey inward to meet our Beloved Lord more deeply.

The retreat was beautifully animated by Fr. Simon S.J, whose spirit-filled guidance gently

led each of us into an encounter with God. Nineteen of us joyfully entered into these eight days of solitary communion with the Lord. Each day unfolded like a divine invitation - to rest in His presence, to listen to His voice, and to be renewed by His tender love.

The talks were deeply inspiring - words that pierced our hearts and rekindled our faith. Every message seemed to whisper God's personal call to each of us. The environment was peaceful, prayerful, and grace-filled. Under the loving care of Sr. Sukanti Tirkey Fc , all arrangements were made thoughtfully, ensuring that every sister felt at home in the serene presence of the Lord.

The days were well-balanced with moments of prayer, meditation, contemplation, silence, and adoration. For three to four hours each day, we entered into deep meditation that helped us grow in our personal relationship with God. The atmosphere of quiet helped us to hear God's gentle voice speaking within, and to experience His deep, personal love for each one of us.

Every evening, the hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament became a precious time of encounter. As we knelt before the Eucharistic Lord, our hearts were filled with gratitude, peace, and renewed strength. We were deeply touched by the loving care and joyful service of our dear sisters Sr. Birkumari, Sr. Evanjali, Sr. Amiya Usha, Sr. Elizabeth, and Sr. Hyacinth, whose prayerful presence added warmth and beauty to our retreat.

This retreat was truly a spiritual oasis - a time of inner healing, faith-deepening, and intimate communion with Jesus. It strengthened our spirit, renewed our zeal, and deepened our love for our Lord and for one another.

As we concluded the retreat, our hearts could only echo the words of gratitude:

“ Thank you Lord, for calling us again into your heart of love and for renewing within us the joy of belonging to you.”

Sr. Susana Jamuda FC

Inter-School Competitions

The **Inter-School Competitions** of *St. Joseph's Convent Schools* were held on **25th October 2025** with great excitement and participation. The programme began with a beautiful **inaugural ceremony**, attended by participants from **Gaibira, Murkia, and Sundargarh**, and was **hosted by the Sundargarh unit**.

The **Chief Guest, Sr. Flora Lakra FC**, Provincial graced the occasion and remained present throughout the event, encouraging and appreciating the performances of all participants. Her presence was truly **heartwarming**.

Competitions were organized in various categories for students from Classes 1 to 9, including **Declamation, Speech, Quiz, Painting, Singing, Story Telling, and Poem Recitation**. The students performed **exceptionally well**, and all the events were **very interesting**, with the **Quiz competition** being the highlight of the day. The audience enjoyed every moment of it.

The **students of St. Joseph's Convent School, Sundargarh**, were the **centre of attraction**, as they performed brilliantly and won **most of the prizes**. The event was successfully organized through the **collaboration of the three principals - Sr. Anisha Avay, Sr. Joshlin, and Sr. Sukanti**. All the **teachers of St. Joseph's Convent School** actively participated to ensure the smooth running of the programme.

The **winners were awarded trophies** in recognition of their achievements. After the programme, a **delicious meal** was served to all. The day ended on a joyful note, leaving behind memories of **team spirit, talent, and togetherness**.

Art, Craft and Science Exhibition

An Art, Craft and Science Exhibition was held at *St. Joseph's Convent School, Sundargarh* on **8th November 2025** with great enthusiasm and creativity. The Chief Guest for the occasion was **Fr. Emmanuel Toppo, SVD**. The programme began with a short inaugural ceremony followed by the **lighting of the lamp**, symbolizing the light of knowledge and wisdom.

Sr. Sukanti, the Principal of the school, gave the **welcome address**, expressing her joy and appreciation for the students' hard work. The Chief Guest, in his inspiring **message**, encouraged the students to continue exploring their creative and scientific talents with dedication and curiosity.

Students exhibited a variety of models and projects on different topics, displaying both artistic and scientific skills. **Parents and guardians** were invited to witness the exhibition, and a **good number of visitors** appreciated the efforts of the young exhibitors. The students actively participated in arranging and decorating the classrooms before and after the event.

As a whole, the **programme was a grand success**, showcasing the talent, teamwork, and enthusiasm of the students and staff of the school.

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day was celebrated on 14th Nov 2025 with great enthusiasm and joy in our school. The event began with a short and entertaining programme presented by the teachers, which filled the students with excitement and happiness. The celebration continued with the **Inter-House Football Tournament for both the boys and girls**. The tournament was inaugurated by **Mr.**

David Kerketta, the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony. His inspiring words encouraged the young players. The final match was graced by **Fr. Ravi SVD** as the Chief Guest, whose presence added charm and motivation to the event.

A special highlight of the day was the **Food Stall** put up by the teachers. The **Food Stall** became a popular spot where both **parents and students** relished the delicious snacks and spent enjoyable moments together. The champions and runners group were awarded with the Trophy. Individual trophy was awarded for the Man of the match, Best Goal keeper, Best defender, Best scorer, and emerging player. Overall, the Children's Day celebration, combined with the Inter-House Football Tournament, turned into a memorable and joyful experience for everyone present.

Sr. Sukanti Tirkey FC
Sundergarh

News from St. Xavier's School, Tangrain

St. Xavier's School, Tangrain celebrated Fancy Dress Day on 29 October 2025 for Classes I to IX, and on 31 October 2025 for Nursery, LKG, and UKG. It was a delightful sight to watch the students showcase their creativity by dressing up as teachers, doctors, nurses, sellers, pilots, grapes, and many more imaginative characters. The children participated with great joy and enthusiasm, filling the day with colour and excitement.

On 10 November 2025, Sr. Pushpa Purathur FC, Superior General, and Sr. Valerie Miranda FC, General Councillor of the Daughters of the Cross, visited Tangrain as part of their collaborative mission. The entire school community - students and teachers - extended a warm and heartfelt welcome. From the school gate to the convent, the welcome was grand and meaningful, with teachers washing their hands and students

showering flower petals as the sisters entered the campus.

The school joyfully celebrated Children's Day on 14 November. The programme began with a meaningful prayer service prepared by the teachers. This was followed by an entertaining lineup of performances by the teachers, including dances, a humorous dance act, and a short skit that brought smiles to every child. After the stage programme, a solo dance competition was conducted, where many students showcased their talents through diverse dance forms.

On 23 November, a Karate Competition for girls was held at Surabhi Sports Ground, Sector-7, Rourkela, under the Asmita Khelo India Pencak Silat League 2025–2026.

From St. Xavier's School, 18 girls participated, and an impressive 15 won medals - gold, 3 silver, and 7 bronze- making it a proud and joyful moment for the entire school community.

A Memorable Excursion to Bhubaneswar

On 28th of September, St. Xavier's School set out on an exciting excursion to Bhubaneswar with 37 cheerful students, 7 dedicated staff members, and the SMC Committee. The day began with great enthusiasm as everyone was filled with excitement and curiosity for the days ahead.

We travelled by Vande Bharat Express, which departed right on time at 2:00 p.m. The journey was joyful, with laughter, songs, and smiles all around. By 8:00 p.m., we reached Loyola School Bhubaneswar, where we were warmly welcomed by their staff, who came to receive us and helped us settle in comfortably.

The next morning, our first destination was Dhaulagiri. To our great surprise and happiness,

we had the honour of meeting the Honorable Education Minister of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, along with the Sports and Youth Services Minister of Odisha, Shri Suryabansi Suraj. They greeted us kindly and allowed us to take photographs with them. It was a proud and memorable moment for everyone, made even more special as the media and local people gathered around us.

For many of our students, especially those from village backgrounds, this trip was their first-ever travel experience. Their excitement knew no bounds! Each new place - XIM University, Konark Sun Temple, Puri Beach, Khandagiri, Udayagiri, the Science Park, and the State Museum - brought them wonder and joy.

The most unforgettable part of the journey was at Puri Beach, where the children ran into the waves, played with the sand, and took countless photographs. Watching their laughter, delight, and amazement was truly heartwarming for the teachers and staff.

Our final visit was to Nandankanan Zoological Park, where we spent a wonderful afternoon observing different varieties of tigers, colourful birds, and many other animals. The children's joy and curiosity made the day even more special.

We are deeply grateful to St. Ignace Loyola School of Nature and the community for their generous support and encouragement, and also to XIM University of Nature for their warm hospitality throughout our visit.

This excursion was not only a journey of education and discovery, but also one of joy, friendship, and lifelong memories. It gave every student a new experience to treasure and a story to remember forever.

**Sr. Suchita F.C
Tangrain**

A Time of Renewal and Bondedness

The long-awaited canonical visitation of our Mother General, Sr. Pushpa Purathur, and General Councillor, Sr. Valery Miranda, to the Province of Rourkela became a profound moment of spiritual renewal, joy, and communion for every sister. Their presence among us was more than an official visit—it was a true experience of grace and bondedness, rekindling our shared vocation and strengthening the spiritual threads that unite our communities.

The visitation to the Community of St. Joseph's Convent, Hamirpur, was especially memorable. It was a time filled with warmth, inspiration, and deep togetherness. The arrival of our Mother General and General Councillor brought renewed hope, spiritual encouragement, and a vibrant sense of unity among all the sisters.

They were welcomed with great love and reverence—arati, garlands, and flowers symbolized our respect, gratitude, and affection. The sisters, together with the children from the Girls' Hostel and the candidates, offered a heartfelt welcome through melodious music and graceful dance, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration.

During their stay, Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Valery spent meaningful time listening, guiding, and strengthening the sisters in their commitment to the mission. Their thoughtful words, gentle presence, and pastoral concern deepened our sense of communion and encouraged us to live our charism with renewed enthusiasm.

They also visited our institutions, appreciating the dedicated efforts of all who contribute to the mission. Their presence was a blessing not only for the sisters but also for the students, staff, families, and everyone associated with our apostolic works.

The visitation concluded with heartfelt gratitude, prayer, and a renewed spirit of bondedness. As a community, we remain deeply thankful for the precious time they spent with us—a time truly filled with God's grace and new hope for the journey ahead.

**Sr. Amiya Usha Samad Fc
Hamirpur**

60 Years in the Loving Service of Jesus Christ and His People

“The light that was lit sixty years ago continues to burn - quietly, steadily, and faithfully - before God and His people.”

With hearts overflowing with gratitude and praise, we gathered as one faith-filled family to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Pushpa FC, Superior general, marking sixty grace-filled years in the loving service of Jesus Christ and His people. This sacred celebration was not merely a remembrance of years gone by, but a joyful proclamation of God's faithfulness revealed through a life totally consecrated to His mission.

Sr. Pushpa's vocation began with a simple yet courageous yes—a response that gradually unfolded into a lifelong pilgrimage of prayer, service, and surrender. From her early years as a humble sister rooted deeply in community life, she journeyed faithfully through various responsibilities entrusted to her by the Congregation. Each stage of her life reflected a woman formed by silence and service, listening attentively to God's call and responding with generosity.

Her path led her from being a sister among sisters to serving as Provincial Superior, embracing the challenging yet enriching mission in Cameroon, and finally assuming the role of Superior

General. At every step, her life echoed trust in Divine Providence and a deep love for the charism of the Daughters of the Cross.

The Eucharistic celebration itself became a living reflection of Sr. Pushpa's journey.

The school auditorium, tastefully decorated, reflected the spirit of the celebration with the theme:

“Celebrating 60 Years of a Profound Milestone of Lifelong Commitment, Faith, and Service.”

It began with a deeply symbolic and prayerful entrance. Holding a lit candle, Sr. Pushpa, FC - sign of a life illuminated by faith and fidelity - was reverently led to the altar. She was accompanied by Sr. Valeri Miranda, FC, the General Counsellor, and Sr. Flora Lakra, FC, the Provincial Superior. The solemn procession was beautifully enhanced by a graceful entrance dance performed by the candidates, whose prayerful movements expressed gratitude, hope, and the continuity of mission across generations. In that sacred moment, the flame received sixty years ago was seen still burning bright.

Throughout her years of service, Sr. Pushpa remained a woman of simplicity, strength, and deep interior life. Whether serving quietly in community or carrying the weighty responsibility of leadership, she stayed rooted in prayer and attentive to the needs of the time. Her missionary service in Cameroon stands as a powerful testimony to her openness to new cultures and her readiness to go wherever the Congregation was most in need.

As Superior General, Sr. Pushpa guided the Congregation with wisdom, humility, and prophetic vision. Her leadership was marked not by authority alone, but by accompaniment - walking with sisters, listening with compassion,

fostering unity in diversity, and encouraging renewed zeal for mission while remaining faithful to the founding charism.

The Jubilee celebration became a profound moment of thanksgiving - for Sr. Pushpa's personal journey and for the countless lives touched through her dedicated service. Sisters, candidates, and the Students gathered in a spirit of communion, rejoicing in God's unfailing grace made visible through a life wholly given to Him.

As we look back with gratitude and move forward with hope, we entrust Sr. Pushpa once again into the loving hands of God:

May the flame entrusted to you never grow dim,
May the road ahead be gentle and grace-filled,
May the God who called you remain your joy
and strength.

With hearts full of thanksgiving, we praise God for sixty years of faithful consecrated life, and we pray that Sr. Pushpa, FC, may continue to be a quiet yet radiant light - burning steadily for the Church and the world.

**Sr. Birkumari Fc
Hamirpur**

A Century of Faith and Service The Gaibira Mission

From silence and sacrifice, a song of faith arose. In the simplicity of mud walls and whispered prayers, God planted His dream in gaibira.

Through frail bodies and fearless spirits, the mission took root, watered by suffering and hope. A hundred years later, that seed has become a tree of life, sheltering generations with love, education, and unwavering faith.

The history of the Gaibira Mission is written in faith, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. It is an epic story of religious sisters who courageously embraced hardship to serve the local community with love and commitment. Established in 1923, the mission was envisioned as a centre of education, evangelization, and spiritual guidance for the people of KGaibira.

On 6 January 1923, the St. Ann sisters of Ranchi arrived to begin this noble mission. From the very beginning, the sisters immersed themselves fully in parish life. They served as sacristans, taught in local schools, and conducted catechism classes, nurturing both the spiritual and educational growth of the children and the wider community.

Fr. Flour Sj provided the sisters with a small mud house for accommodation. The house, consisting of only three rooms, posed many challenges for daily life. Alongside poor living conditions, the sisters struggled with language barriers, which made teaching and communication difficult. Their trials deepened when they contracted tuberculosis, forcing them to return to Ranchi. The house was disinfected to prevent further health risks.

Though their stay was marked by suffering, the pioneering sisters left behind a powerful legacy of faith and perseverance. Their sacrifice highlighted both the hardships of missionary life and the indomitable spirit of those who serve God's people.

A significant moment in the mission's early history came with the visit of Sr. Mary Josephine Fc Provincial Superior, along with other reverend sisters, on 9 December 1926. Their presence brought encouragement, strength, and renewed direction to the community.

The sisters' service extended far beyond the school and parish boundaries. Together with Fr.

Flour Sj, they visited families in nearby villages, listening to their joys and sorrows and walking closely with the people. Gradually, they became an integral part of village life. They played a vital role in preparing the faithful for the sacraments - baptism, Holy Communion, confirmation, and marriage. As a result of their tireless efforts, the local Church began to flourish, strengthened both spiritually and socially.

On 9 January 1926, the mission reached another milestone with the laying of the foundation stone for a new convent building, which was completed within the same year. This convent was more than a structure of bricks and mortar - it became a symbol of hope, stability, and long-term commitment to the people of Gaibira. Soon after, the sisters opened a girls' hostel, providing a safe and nurturing environment for young women to pursue education and personal growth. This initiative proved transformative, empowering generations of girls and opening doors to brighter futures.

The grand centenary celebration of Our Lady of Dolours Convent, Gaibira, held on 9 December 2025, stands as a historic and grace-filled moment. The celebration left behind cherished memories and renewed the missionary spirit that has sustained this community for a hundred years.

After completing my six-year term as Provincial, I was appointed to Our Lady of Dolours Convent, Gaibira. The sight of the century-old building did not discourage me; rather, it ignited in me a renewed determination to restore it with love and care.

The Generalate of the Daughters of the Cross and Church in Need, extended generous support. With God's abundant blessings and the financial assistance of many well-wishers and friends, we were able to undertake the renovation successfully. Despite continuous rain and numerous obstacles, the dedication of the

contractor and the tireless efforts of the workers transformed the convent completely. The newly constructed portico and the shrine of Our Lady of Dolours have added grace and beauty to the convent campus.

As I walk through the memory lanes of this sacred place, my heart remembers our pioneers - especially Sr. Mary Josephine FC, Sr. Julieta Fc, and Sr. Lutgard Fc, who arrived here in 1926 to bring the Good News to God's people. We are here today because of their courage and daring spirit, inspired by our Foundress Mother Marie Therese, supported by our co-founder Canon Habets, who accepted the call to come to India and serve in Gaibira.

After 100 years of faithful service, we look back with deep gratitude and pride. The mission that began in 1926 continues to guide us in love and service, calling us to serve the weakest and the most suffering. Their spirit urges us to love Christ more deeply by loving His people.

My heart overflows with gratitude for every blessing received during the past one and a half years—from God and from His people. We have enthroned Our Lady, who constantly intercedes for us. May she remain a beacon on our journey, protecting and guiding us always.

Sr. Anupama Toppo Fc
Gaibira

Inauguration of the Centenary Year of Gaibira Convent

On 9 December 2025, Gaibira Convent entered a sacred milestone with the inauguration of its Centenary Jubilee Year, marking 100 years of God's abundant blessings, dedicated service, and missionary zeal. The day was filled with deep gratitude, joy, and thanksgiving as the entire community gathered to praise God for the journey of the past century.

The hundred-year-old convent building, newly renovated for the jubilee, stood radiant in its fresh and dignified new look. Adding to its beauty was the newly constructed Shrine of Our Lady of Dolours, which emerged as a spiritual focal point, drawing hearts to prayer and reflection. The majestic entrance gate, adorned with a warm welcome announcing the Inauguration of the Centenary Jubilee of Gaibira Convent, set the tone for the historic celebration.

The FC Sisters were warmly welcomed at the gate with a special stall and centenary badges, beautifully imprinted with the jubilee logo, which shone gracefully around their necks. Other guests were also received with badges, creating a strong sense of unity and celebration. A large number of FC Sisters, along with other religious sisters, priests, and brothers, graced the occasion with their presence.

The ceremony began with a welcome and introduction by Sr. Sukanti FC. To solemnly mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations, the Centenary Flag was unfurled by Sr. Pushpa Purathur FC, the Superior General. This was followed by the unveiling of the statue and shrine of Our Lady of Dolours by Sr. Valeri Miranda FC, the General Councillor, and the shrine was solemnly blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur, Bishop of the Rourkela Diocese.

Soon after, the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly renovated convent was joyfully carried out by Sr. Anupama Toppo FC, Superior of Our Lady of Dolours Convent, Gaibira, along with Sr. Pushpa FC and Sr. Valeri Miranda FC. The memorial marble stone was unveiled by Sr. Flora Lakra FC, Provincial Superior, together with Sr. Anupama FC. The entire convent house was then blessed by Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur and Rev. Fr. Anuranjan Bilung SVD, Provincial Superior of the INE Province.

Accompanied by traditional drum beats, the guests were led to the Holy Eucharistic celebration venue, by the students of Gaibira. The convent school courtyard was filled to capacity with people, students, and teachers from various FC schools. A graceful entrance dance by the students of Nirmala Girls High School, Kainsera, led the Bishop, priests, and sisters to the altar, creating a prayerful and festive atmosphere.

The Mass introduction was beautifully presented by Sr. Josline FC, who vividly narrated the history and journey of the pioneer sisters who came to Gaibira amid great hardships and struggles, sowing the seeds of faith in the Gangpur Mission. Her narration deeply touched the hearts of the listeners, many of whom were moved to tears. Sr. Priscilla Kindo FC then explained the meaning and symbolism of the Centenary Jubilee Logo.

The official inauguration of the Jubilee Year was solemnly done by Sr. Pushpa FC, who switched on the 100 lights placed before the altar, symbolizing a century of faith and mission. Sr. Valeri FC lit the Province Tree, representing growth, rootedness, and continuity. These two symbols stood prominently on either side of the altar, powerfully expressing the spirit of the centenary.

Five beautifully decorated candles were placed before the altar and lit by five leaders: Rt. Rev. Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur, Bishop of Rourkela Diocese. Rev. Fr. Anuranjan Bilung SVD, Provincial Superior, INE Province. Sr. Flora Lakra FC, Provincial Superior, Rourkela Province. Sr. Anupama Toppo FC, Superior, Gaibira Convent. Rev. Fr. Maria Nayagam, Parish Priest of Gaibira.

The choir, guided by Rev. Fr. Marcel Dayasagar Barla, Cap, and Sr. Anisha FC, enhanced the liturgy with melodious and prayerful hymns. The Eucharistic celebration concluded with

a joyful recessional dance by the students of Gaibira ME School.

Following the Holy Mass, a felicitation programme was held. The distinguished guests were honoured with shawls, bouquets, and mementos, and the veteran sisters of Gaibira Convent were specially honoured for their lifelong service and commitment. The cultural programme featured dances, songs, and thematic presentations by students of various FC schools, along with a dance drama performed by the candidates and postulants, which beautifully depicted the spirit of vocation and mission.

In their address, Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur and Rev. Fr. Anuranjan Bilung expressed deep appreciation for the presence and contribution of the FC Sisters. They shared personally how they had grown up under the loving care and guidance of the FC Sisters during their school days in Gaibira, acknowledging the lasting impact of their formation.

The day concluded as a day of profound gratitude, with hearts overflowing in thanksgiving to God for His unfailing blessings over the past 100 years. It was a celebration not only of history but also of faith, sacrifice, and hope for the future - a centenary truly remembered with joy, emotion, and praise to God.

Sr. Anisha Avay Dungdung Fc
Gaibira

Daughters of the Cross, Gaibira (1926–2026) Centenary Jubilee Theme: Grace • Growth • Gratitude

1. Introduction of the Centenary Logo

Today, our Centenary celebration unfolds through **four sacred symbols**, each carrying a deep spiritual meaning. **I will begin with the**

first - our Centenary Jubilee Logo, inspired by the theme: Grace • Growth • Gratitude.

At the top of the logo stands the Cross of the Daughters of the Cross. From it, rays of light descend upon the statue of Our Lady of Dolours and the name of our convent, showing that every blessing, every sacrifice, and every fruit of these hundred years flows from Christ, through the loving intercession of Mary. From this Cross flows the original Grace of our Congregation - the grace that shaped our charism: to serve the weakest and most suffering members of society. It is this same Grace that began, sustained, and continues to guide the mission in Gaibira.

At the center of the logo are the **three interlinked circles**, symbolizing the unfolding journey of the congregation over **three dimensions: time, mission, and people**. In one section, the wheat is placed close to the number “100”, signifying an abundant harvest, fruitfulness, and faithful service through these years - a clear sign of Growth, nurtured through prayer, sacrifice, education, healing ministries, and love for the people.

At the bottom, the tribal drum symbolizes the local culture and the rhythms of life in Gaibira. It expresses the sisters’ deep rootedness among the people, their unity with the land and its traditions, and their joy in mission. Above all, it is a symbol of our Gratitude - for this land, this culture, and the countless lives that have shaped our hundred-year journey of service and holiness.

At the heart of the logo stands capital “G”, representing our Jubilee theme of Grace, Growth, and Gratitude. These three words beautifully summarize the spiritual journey of the past one hundred years - God’s Grace faithfully received, steady Growth in mission and service, and deep Gratitude generously offered in return.

Finally, the **outer golden wreath and stars** crown the logo as a mark of honour and celebration - a tribute to **one hundred years of fidelity, sacrifice, and service, from 1926 to 2026**.

2. Inauguration of the CENTENARY Year:(Symbol of Grace)

As the **Centenary Jubilee Logo** unfolds our journey of **Grace, Growth, and Gratitude**, we now move from **symbol to celebration**.

From the light flowing from the **Cross in our logo**, we turn to the **illumination of the number 100, formed by lights**. This sacred light brings the number 100 to life, recalling **each year of our mission in Gaibira - a year embraced by God’s grace**.

Within this radiant light are inscribed the words: **“100 Years in Christ’s Radiant Light - Education, Health, and Socio-Pastoral Ministry.”**

Here, grace is made visible - **in enlightened minds, healed bodies, strengthened faith, and uplifted communities**. Every flame stands as a **witness to one year of faithful service**, lived in the spirit of **Mother Marie Thérèse Haze**.

3. Tree of Province of Rourkela: (symbol of Growth)

From the illumination of the number 100, formed by lights, we have witnessed how God’s grace has guided and blessed each year of our mission. As this light of grace now flows into the symbol of life itself, we turn our gaze to the Tree, representing the growth, vitality, and flourishing of our Province over these years.

The Tree you see before us is more than a symbol of growth - it is a living testimony of our Province’s sacred journey. Each branch bears the photos of our **21 communities**, along with

their **year of establishment**, reminding us of the milestones, struggles, sacrifices, and countless graces that have shaped our mission. As this Tree is illuminated, we honour the dedication of every sister and every community who have faithfully carried forward the charism of **Mother Marie Thérèse Haze**, nurturing faith, service and love throughout the Province of Rourkela.

Our mission in this land began in **Chaibasa in 1868**, moved forward to **Balasore in 1872**, and then entered the **Gangpur Mission in 1909**, finally finding a firm and lasting foundation in **Gaibira in 1926**, with the establishment of **Our Lady of Dolours Convent - the Mother Community of our Province**.

As the mission expanded, another significant milestone was reached with the establishment of **St. Joseph's Convent, Hamirpur in 1941**, which later became the **Provincial House**, strengthening and guiding the growth of all the communities that followed.

Over the years, the mission continued to mature:

- **Becoming a Region in 2001**
- **A Vice-Province in 2006**
- **And a full-fledged Province in 2009**

Today, by God's abundant grace, the **Province of Rourkela** stretches across **three states - Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh**, with **19 established communities, 2 extended communities - a total of 21 communities - and 143 sisters**, all united in living and spreading the charism of our Foundress with faithfulness and dedication.

**Sr.Pricilla Kindo Fc
Hamirpur**

Centenary celebration of Our Lady of Dolours Convent, Gaibira 09.12.2025

आज हम कृतज्ञ हृदयों के साथ, यहाँ एकत्र हुए हैं, ताकि गैबिरा कॉन्वेंट की, 100 वर्षों की शताब्दी जयंती के, इस ऐतिहासिक क्षण के, साक्षी बन सकें,- एक ऐसा शताब्दियात्रा ,जो विश्वास, त्याग, और परमेश्वर के अटूट प्रेम से भरी रही है।

क्रूस पुत्री धर्म समाज की स्थापना 1833 में Belgium के Liege में Mother Marie Therese Haze ने की थी, फ्रांसीसी क्रांति 1789 के कठिन समय के बाद, संघर्ष और पुनर्निर्माण के, वातावरण में जन्मी यह संस्था, क्रूस की भावना के साथ, समाज को चंगा करने, शिक्षित करने, और उन्नत करने की, गहरी आकांक्षा से बढ़ती गई।

परमेश्वर की कृपा से यह संस्था, शीघ्र ही, विश्व के विभिन्न भागों में, फैलने लगी। 1862 में, क्रूस पुत्री धर्म समाज भारत आई, और सबसे पहले कराची पहुँचीं, और 1863 में, वे Bombay पहुँचे, आगे चलकर, यह मिशन, Bombay प्रांत के रूप में जाना गया। समय के साथ, यह संस्था, उत्तर भारत के कई क्षेत्रों में फैली, और 1868 में एक विकसित, तथा सशक्त Culcutta प्रांत के रूप में स्थापित हुई।

1868 में एफ.सी. बहनें Balasore आईं, जहाँ उन्होंने, पूरे समर्पण के साथ, पैरिश, Dispensary और, सौंपे गए मिशन में, सेवा की। उनकी उपस्थिति ने, वहाँ के लोगों को चंगाई, आशा और आध्यात्मिक बल प्रदान किया। Balasore से, ईश्वरीय मार्गदर्शन, और मिशन के उत्साह से, प्रेरित होकर बहनें 3rd May 1874 को Sr. Berchmans fc and Sr. Electa fc चाईबासा की ओर बढ़ीं, जहाँ, उन्हें Fr. Stockman का आमंत्रण, और सहयोग मिला। छोटे-छोटे कदमों के साथ, मिशन बढ़ता

गया, और इन्हीं विनम्र शुरुआतों से, वह समृद्ध विरासत उभरी।

क्रूस पुत्री बहनों ने, वहीं अपना मिशन आरम्भ किया। वे अनाथ बच्चों की गहरी ममता, और स्नेहपूर्ण समर्पण के साथ, देखभाल करती थीं। Chaibasa से, उनका सेवाकार्य आगे बढ़कर, 1875 को Burudih, Kochang, Jharkhand तक पहुँचा, जहाँ बहनें, 15–16 अनाथ बच्चों के साथ रहीं, और करुणा के, इस मिशन को आगे बढ़ाती रहीं।

Tutui.... Burudih, घने जंगलों, शांत पहाड़ियों, और दूर-दूर बसे, गाँवों का क्षेत्र था। पहाड़ी पर, एक छोटा-सा घर, बहनों को रहने के लिए दिया गया था। वहीं से वे, गाँवों तक जातीं, लोगों से मिलतीं, बीमारों का उपचार करतीं, और निष्ठा से धर्मशिक्षा सिखाती थीं।

घर बहुत साधारण था - जिसकी छत जंगल की धास से बनी थी। पर उसी छोटे से घर में प्रार्थना, सेवा और बच्चों की हँसी से भरा हुआ एक पवित्र परिवार था।

बहनें डेढ़ से दो वर्षों तक वहाँ रहीं। पर एक दिन दुखद घटना घटी। अचानक बिजली गिरी, और देखते ही देखते वह पूरा घर आग की लपटों में जल उठा। कुछ भी बचाया नहीं जा सका - वह गहरा जंगल था, मदद पहुँचने का कोई मार्ग नहीं था।

इस पीड़ादायक घटना ने उन्हें भीतर तक घायल किया, लेकिन ईश्वर की योजना पर विश्वास ने उनके कदमों को सँभाले रखा। बहनों ने बच्चों को साथ लिया और वापस Chaibasa लौट आईं - हानि लेकर नहीं, बल्कि विश्वास की शक्ति और नए सिरे से शुरू करने का साहस लेकर।

क्रूस पुत्री की ये बहनें, लोगों तक पहुँचने के लिए, अक्सर घोड़े पर सवार होकर घने जंगलों और दूर-दराज़

के गाँवों का सफर तय करती थीं। वे उन प्रथम ईसाइयों से मिलने जाती थीं, जो वहाँ बस गए थे - उन्हें उत्साहित करने, उनके विश्वास को मज़बूत करने, उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करने और उनके विश्वास को दृढ़ बनाने के लिए।

Burudihi की, दर्दनाक घटना के बाद भी, क्रूस पुत्री बहनों का साहस, नहीं टूटा। ईश्वर पर अटूट भरोसा, और मिशन के प्रति समर्पण ने, उन्हें फिर से, आगे बढ़ने की शक्ति दी।

अपने इस सेवा-धर्म को पूरा कर, जब वे Chaibasa लौटीं, तभी एक गहरी पीड़ा ने, उन्हें घेर लिया। वे गंभीर रूप से, टी.बी. रोग से प्रभावित हो गईं। सेवा की राह पर, चलते-चलते, उनके शरीर कमजोर होने लगे, पर मन नहीं टूटा - फिर भी परिस्थितियाँ, इतनी कठोर थीं, कि उन्हें, भारी मन से, Chaibasa छोड़ना पड़ा।

14th October 1909 में बहनें Gangpur Mission, केसरामल पहुँचीं - वह भूमि जिसे ओडिशा में ईसाई विश्वास की नींव कहा जाता है। यहाँ भी उन्होंने वही सेवा जारी रखी - गरीबों की सहायता, अनाथ बच्चों की देखभाल, बीमारों की सेवा, और धर्मशिक्षा सिखाती थीं। उनकी करुणा और समर्पण हर कदम पर झ़लकता रहा। कुछ वर्षों बाद, 1926 में, गैबिरा पेरिश में सेवा के लिए बहनों को आमंत्रण मिला। यह निमंत्रण फ़ादर फ्लोर एस.जे. की ओर से था। उसी समय Sr. Mary Josephine Fc Provincial Superior, जो उस दौर में कोलकाता से प्रांतीय निरीक्षण पर थीं, गैबिरा मिशन शुरू करने के लिए आगे आईं। Provincial Superior Sr. Mary Josephine Fc के साथ चार बहनें इस कठिन परंतु पवित्र यात्रा में शामिल हुईं।

Kesramal से Gaibira का मार्ग आसान नहीं था - घने जंगलों से होकर गुज़रता रास्ता, ऊँचे-नीचे पहाड़ी पथ, और लंबी पैदल यात्राएँ... जहाँ चलना असंभव था, वहाँ बहनों को पालकी में ले जाया गया - उनकी त्यागमयी सेवा और लोगों के सम्मान का प्रतीक।

Gaibira में जीवन अत्यंत कठिन था। चुनौतियाँ अनेक थीं, संघर्ष गहरे थे। परंतु बहनों ने हर कठिनाई को आनंद और साहस के साथ स्वीकार किया। उन्होंने हर्षपूर्वक लोगों की सेवा की—पैरिश में कार्य किया, धर्मशिक्षा सिखाया, गाँव-गाँव जाकर परिवारों से मिले, और मसीह का प्रेम प्रत्येक हृदय तक पहुँचाया।

बहनों ने Gaibira स्कूल में शिक्षण कार्य शुरू किया, जो प्रारंभिक वर्षों में एफ.सी. बहनों द्वारा ही संचालित था। समय के साथ लोगों की आवश्यकताओं को, समझते हुए, उन्होंने एक डिस्पेंसरी खोला। यह डिस्पेंसरी, धीरे-धीरे, पूरे क्षेत्र की, जीवनदायिनी बन गई। लोग दूर-दूर से, उपचार के लिए आते थे, - कोई बैलगाड़ी से, कोई पैदल, और कई लोग, झारखंड व छत्तीसगढ़ से भी, यहाँ पहुँचते थे। कई बार, मरीजों को, लोग अपने कंधों पर बनी, साधारण खाट पर उठाकर लाते थे। यह डिस्पेंसरी, केवल उपचार का स्थान नहीं थी, - यह एक करुणा, और सेवा का, अस्पताल थी।

जैसे-जैसे समय, और परिस्थितियाँ बदलीं बहनों ने लोगों की बढ़ती ज़रूरतों के अनुसार नए कदम उठाए। उन्होंने, लड़कियों के लिए एक छात्रावास शुरू किया, जहाँ हजारों बालिकाएँ रहीं, पढ़ीं, और अपने जीवन को, नई दिशा दी। असंख्य जीवन, इस होस्टल की चारदीवारी में, आकार पाए।

जब लड़कियों के लिए, हाई स्कूल की आवश्यकता उठी, Nirmala Girls High School ने, अपना सफर, अगस्त 1988 में Gaibira के, पुराने प्राइमरी स्कूल भवन में, एस.वी.डी. हाउस के सामने, प्रारम्भ किया। समय के साथ, विद्यालय का विस्तार, होता गया, और कुछ सरकारी नियमों, तथा आवश्यकताओं के कारण, इसे स्थानांतरित करना, आवश्यक हो गया। फलस्वरूप, विद्यालय को, धीरे-धीरे समीपवर्ती पंचायत, कुरुमकेल, स्थित कैंसेरा गाँव, में स्थानांतरित किया गया। लेकिन, जब तक इमारत बन रही थी, पढ़ाई के लिए, कोई कक्षा नहीं थी, कोई शारणस्थल नहीं था। फिर भी, बहनों ने हिम्मत नहीं हारी - वे Gaibira से Kainsara, रोज़ 3

km, साइकिल चलाकर पहुँचती, और पेड़ों की छाँव में, और गाँव के बरामदा में बच्चों को पढ़ाती। उनका उत्साह अद्वितीय था, उनका मिशन अटूट था।

धीरे-धीरे, ईंट दर ईंट स्कूल तैयार हुआ। आज, Kainsara, एक स्वतंत्र, और फल-फूलता हुआ समुदाय बनकर खड़ा है, - विश्वास, धैर्य, और बहनों के, अथाह समर्पण की जीवित गवाही। साधारण शुरुआत से लेकर, शिक्षा और, सेवा का यह, प्रकाशस्तंभ बनने तक यह आज भी हर उस व्यक्ति को प्रेरित करता है, जो यहाँ आता है।

आज हमारे बीच, निर्मला गर्ल्स स्कूल की, दो प्रारंभिक दीपशिखाएँ, हमारी मार्गदर्शक बहनें, - Sr. Mary Hycinth Fc और Sr. Flora Lakra Fc - यहाँ उपस्थित हैं।

उनकी उपस्थिति, हमारे हृदयों को, अपार खुशी, कृतज्ञता और सम्मान से भर देती है क्योंकि इन्हीं के समर्पण, और तपस्या से, इस विद्यालय की नींव, मजबूत हुई, और इसकी पहचान बनी।

Gaibira में जब उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय की शुरुआत हुई, तब हॉस्टल में लड़कियों की देखभाल बहनें ही करती थीं। और जब बाद में कॉलेज को बाबुदीह स्थानांतरित किया गया, तब भी बहनों ने अपना समर्पण जारी रखा। वे बाबुदीह गर्ल्स हॉस्टल में भी लड़कियों की प्यार और ध्यान से देखभाल करती रहीं।

2016 में, समय की माँग और लोगों की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए, बहनों ने अंग्रेजी माध्यम स्कूल की स्थापना की। आज यह विद्यालय बहुत सुंदर रूप से आगे बढ़ रहा है। विद्यालय के साथ खोला गया होस्टल भी ज़रूरतमंद बच्चों के लिए एक बड़ी सेवा का माध्यम बना है।

आज, इस पवित्र शताब्दी पर खड़े होकर, हम उन सभी बहनों को सम्मानपूर्वक स्मरण करते हैं जिन्होंने यहाँ सेवा की, जिनके जीवन ने अनगिनत हृदयों को स्पर्श किया, और जिन्होंने इस भूमि में विश्वास और प्रेम के बीज बोए।

उनका समर्पण ही वह आधार बना है, जिस पर Gaibira Convent आज भी फल-फूल रहा है।

किसी शताब्दी का उत्सव केवल समय के बीत जाने को नहीं दर्शाता - यह एक जीवित इतिहास का सम्मान है, त्याग, प्रार्थना, सेवा और अनुग्रह से बुने हुए सौ वर्षों का स्मरण है। जब हमारा कॉन्वेंट 100 गौरवशाली वर्ष पूर्ण करता है, हमारे हृदय ईश्वर के अनगिनत आशीर्वादों के प्रति कृतज्ञता से भर उठते हैं।

कुछ साहसी, विश्वास से भरी बहनों द्वारा बोया गया छोटा-सा बीज आज प्रेम, करुणा, शिक्षा और आध्यात्मिक शक्ति का विशाल वृक्ष बन चुका है। इन वर्षों में यह कॉन्वेंट आशा का दीपक रहा - एक ऐसी जगह जहाँ टूटे हुए दिलों को मरहम मिला, नहे मनों को ज्ञान मिला, और अनगिनत आत्माओं ने मसीह के प्रेम का कोमल स्पर्श महसूस किया।

इस पवित्र स्थान का हर कोना कहानियाँ सुनाता है - उन बहनों की जिन्होंने निस्वार्थ भाव से सेवा की, उन लोगों की जिनके जीवन बदल गए, उन बच्चों की जिन्होंने सपने देखना सीखा, और उन समुदायों की जिन्हें अंधकार के बीच प्रकाश मिला।

आज जब हम इस ऐतिहासिक क्षण पर खड़े हैं, हम श्रद्धा के साथ अतीत की ओर देखते हैं और आशा के साथ भविष्य को निहारते हैं। यह शताब्दी महोत्सव अटल विश्वास, बढ़ते प्रेम, और कभी न थकने वाली सेवा का उत्सव है। सौ वर्षों की यह यात्रा हमें याद दिलाती है कि हर कदम पर ईश्वर हमारे साथ चले - मार्गदर्शन करते हुए, रक्षा करते हुए, और हमें अपने मिशन को आगे बढ़ाने की प्रेरणा देते हुए।

यह समय उन सभी बहनों, सहयोगियों, शिक्षकों, अभिभावकों और शुभचिंतकों को स्नेहपूर्वक याद करने का भी है, जिनकी प्रार्थनाओं और समर्पण ने इस कॉन्वेंट को आज के स्वरूप में ढाला है। आनंद से भरे हृदयों के

साथ हम इस पावन अवसर का उत्सव मनाते हैं, प्रार्थना करते हैं कि आने वाले सौ वर्ष और भी अधिक उज्ज्वल हों - प्रेम, सेवा और भलाई के उसी मार्ग पर जिस पर हमारे संस्थापकों ने हमें चलाया।

इन सौ वर्षों की पवित्र यात्रा में गैबिरा पैरिश से 25 एफ.सी. सिस्टर्स ने अपने जीवन को प्रभु की सेवा और इस मिशनरी परिवार को समर्पित किया है। आज वे 25 दीपक बनकर दुनिया के अलग-अलग कोनों में मानवता की सेवा, प्रेम की रोशनी और करुणा का संदेश बांट रही हैं।

इस पावन अवसर को चिह्नित करने के लिए, हमने शताब्दी उत्सव का लोगों बड़ी सोच और श्रद्धा के साथ तैयार किया है। हर रूप, हर रेखा, हर रंग - यह केवल चित्र नहीं, बल्कि हमारी विरासत, हमारी आत्मा, और हमारी पहचान का प्रतीक है।

धन्यबाद !

Sr. Josline Fc
Murkia



