

CSJ RIPPLES

Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry - Indian Provinces

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Editorial

Sr. Gloria Clarence

Province of Tanmaya



CELEBRATION OF 'UNIQUENESS': A Reflection on Faith, Womanhood, and Dedication

In the tapestry of human existence each thread contributes its unique hue and texture weaving together a story of diversity and richness. Within the tapestry of consecrated life, womanhood, and devotion to St. Joseph and to the Risen Lord, we find ourselves called to celebrate our distinctiveness as individuals and as a collective force for change and renewal.

As consecrated individuals, we stand as beacons of hope and faith in a world often clouded by uncertainty and turmoil. Our journey in today's Indian context is marked by both challenges and profound significance. It is in the midst of these complexities that our steadfast faith and unwavering dedication offer a compelling

vision of hope, illuminating pathways for societal renewal.

But what of our uniqueness as women? Indeed, God has fashioned us in His image and likeness, bestowing us with remarkable strengths and capabilities. A true woman of conviction understands, the time has come to shake the foundations of complacency. Whether standing up for our beliefs or leading movements for change, we embody the essence of courage, inspiring others to transcend their comfort zones and make a tangible difference in the world. Our authenticity, creativity, and unyielding passion propel us forward as agents of transformation, guided by unconventional wisdom and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. As women,

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we recognize the divine imprint upon our souls, imbuing us with boundless potential for transformation. Our courage serves as a catalyst for progress, inspiring others to break free from the constraints of conformity and forge ahead with boldness and conviction.

The feast of St. Joseph holds particular significance for our congregation, serving as a profound reminder of the power of quiet devotion and steadfast commitment. Though his presence in the Holy Bible may be modest yet St. Joseph's resolute example of silence speaks volumes. Pope Benedict XVI eloquently encapsulated the essence of St. Joseph's role within the Holy Family, affirming his pivotal role in leading us closer to the fountain of all holiness: Jesus Christ. As we reflect on

St. Joseph's example, we are called as individuals and as a congregation to find inspiration in his unwavering dedication to God's will, following his example to sanctify our daily actions and endeavors to emulate his virtues of obedience, humility, and devotion, seeking refuge in the shelter of his paternal care.

And then, there is the cornerstone of our faith—the Risen Lord. In His resurrection, we find the ultimate fulfillment of our deepest convictions. As St. Paul eloquently proclaimed, "Unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:17). The Risen Lord breathes new life into our beings, both in this world and the next, offering us the promise of redemption and eternal salvation. Above all, our celebration finds its culmination

in the joyous proclamation of the Risen Lord. Easter, the pinnacle of our faith, heralds the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair. In Him, we find the strength to persevere amidst life's trials and tribulations, standing firm in the assurance of His eternal presence and love.

As we reflect on our unique calling as consecrated individuals, women, followers of St. Joseph, and believers in the Risen Lord, let us never underestimate the profound impact we have on those around us. May we continue to inspire and uplift others through our words and actions, touching lives in ways we may never fully comprehend. Let us cherish our distinctiveness, for it is through our diversity that the beauty of God's creation shines most brightly.

St. Joseph - my delight



Sr. Maureen Mary Fredrick

Province of Nirmala

The word "Saint" springs through my mind and I enter into the world of fantasy, where I see figures between the blue sky and white clouds, enjoying the bliss of God's glorious presence and continuously interceding to the Divine specially who call upon their names for their assistance.

I see them in heavenly glory. They have achieved this beatification after having gone through many trials which is beyond my imagination. Indeed, few of them are my ideal saints. One among them is St. Joseph, our patron whom I admire extremely.

We hear very little

about him. He remains silent as ever. He cared for his family at Nazareth and faced hardships in silence. He spoke less and conveyed much by his deeds. He walks with me too silently, even if I am not aware. I experience his silent presence as a tender loving and caring father. At difficult times he appears to be

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You did not choose me, I chose you



Sr. Delphina Kerketta
Province of Nirmala

As a Consecrated person, we need to understand our call.

There are three things which we need to reflect :

1. Why did God call me?
2. How did I respond?
3. How do I live as a Consecrated person?

As we live in this fascinating world that attracts us, we need to ponder upon three aspects of our life, namely spiritual, social and moral. Consecrated people are called to focus on moral and spiritual life. As someone has said, “the world has lost the sense of sin”. As a Consecrated person we need to understand where do we stand.

Consecrated people need to know:

- Who are you?
- What is the purpose of your life?

YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME
BUT I CHOSE YOU

John 15:16



- How are you going to achieve?

As a Consecrated person when we relay on above mentioned questions, we realize how important is Consecrated life. As Mother Teresa said, “Work without love is slavery”.

In this materialistic

world we become slaves to the worldly things, power, possessions, name and fame. As an individual one needs to think that this is passing moment this will pass away, but your relationship as a Consecrated person with God remains perpetual.

.....
From Page - 2

my helper, when no one seems to be there. He remains my silent guardian. Not in words but in deed he is a father to me.

He is a faithful father. His words are not recorded in the scriptures, but it is clear by his

actions that he was a kind, loving and faithful man.

Many believe that our words are the primary influence on others. However, actions speak much louder than words. People will usually not remember

what you say, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

Every decision and recorded action made by St. Joseph, sets a high standard for other people to follow.

Consecrated life - The joy of Living for God and for others



Sr. Flavia Pullokaran
Province of Tanmaya

“Consecrated life is a living encounter with the Lord in his people” - Pope Francis

The Sisters, fathers and brothers of Khandwa CRI unit gathered at the Pastoral center in Khandwa, M.P to celebrate the 28th world day of consecration, dedicated for consecrated men and women. In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul instituted this very special

Jubilarians in the diocese with Joy and gratitude through a well-prepared Eucharistic celebration, songs, games, gifts, and a festive meal expressing the joy of our Consecrated life.

We were equally nourished in Spirit through spiritual enlightenment shared by

Fr. Johnson CMI, the MP CRI Regional secretary. He shared in brief the history of CRI. He took time to strengthen our call to consecrated life taking us back to Jesus' time and to our predecessors in Christian life and faith, in order to know and experience the original strength of our call to consecrated life.

During the first part of the talk we were helped to meet two groups of persons,

occasion recognizing the great role played by religious in the life and mission of the Church. This Global celebration is linked to the feast of the presentation of the Lord. This day invites every consecrated person to present oneself to the Lord. The Theme of the year “The Joy of consecrated life” living for God and for others challenges us to go beyond our ordinary struggles of life to witness the strength of our discipleship.

We took this occasion to honour all the Golden and Silver

ie, the apostles of Jesus and the followers of that time. There were 3 conditions to be apostles
1st Jesus has to call them ‘by name’.
2nd Those who are called and responded to the call have to be with Him
3rd To see and experience His life, death and resurrection and to proclaim Christ to others and be willing even to suffer martyrdom.

These conditions and experiences still hold true even today after 2000 years if one wishes to follow Christ especially

in Consecrated life with all its demands and struggles and challenges of the mission.

Fr. Prakash SAC – The CRI Vice President of Khandwa Unit in his sermon during the festive Eucharistic celebration stressed on the necessity of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to live our consecrated life to the full and be fearless apostles of Christ. He enlightened us about the very role of Mother Mary in preparing the first apostles who were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had directed them, so that they will be fully prepared to assume the responsibilities of proclaiming the Good News to the world.

Mary the only witness of the Annunciation filled with fulness of the Holy Spirit and of the private life of Jesus and his death and resurrection must have helped the apostles to perceive the mystery of His person and mission. Let us also have recourse to Mary our mother in the challenges of our Consecrated life.

Thus, the World Day of Consecrated Life Celebration became a grace filled opportunity to confirm our commitment to Christ and the Church as Lovers of God and Zealous apostles for the people in the world.



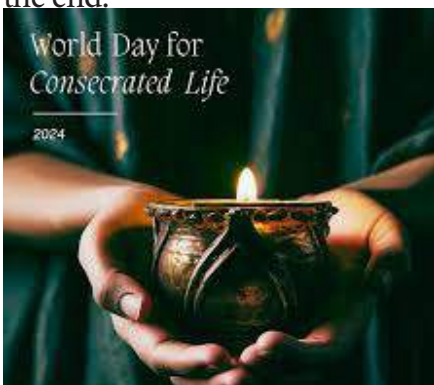
Credibility of a Consecrated Person



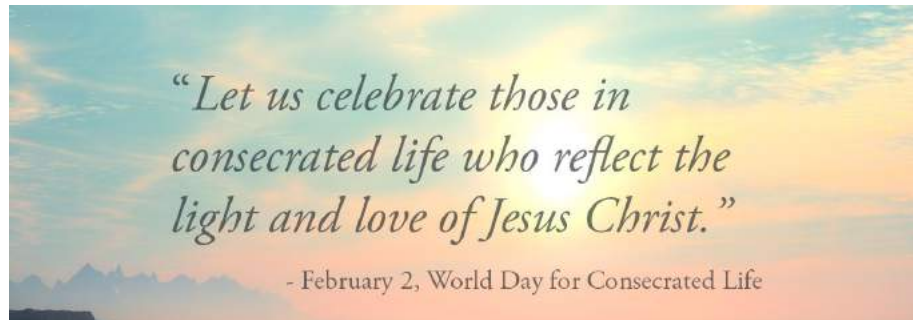
Sr. Nisha Karekkat

Province of Pachmarhi

What is my credibility as a consecrated person? It is a question that we need to ask ourselves. Consecrated person is the one who is called to be simple, humble, faithful and loving. They are the ones who love the poor and raise their voice for the right of the voiceless. Consecrated person is the one who is enlightened and works for justice and protects and nurtures even the nature. They are the ones who respond to God's call and strive to do His will no matter what the cost, and perseveres till the end.



In every woman there is a space to bring forth new life. The consecrated women as spiritual mothers are called to give life through their feminine fruitfulness by means of being loving, respectful, self-giving, fostering, nurturing, supporting



and cherishing the power within. We the consecrated persons have within us the possibility of creating harmony and communion. We are called to be a prophetic Voice of tenderness in the world filled with violence & human indifferences, by being a spiritual mother, sister, daughter & a friend to those who suffer. We need to create a space to come out of ourselves and enter into the universe of the other, to suffer with them to rejoice with them and to journey together to build a life of togetherness. The quality of our consecrated life with total commitment to the mission & readiness to make sacrifices alone will give life to the world.

Our vowed life is therefore a call for total transformation of ourselves for transcendence. In order to be transformed we need to be strongly rooted in prayer

& faith. Sometimes we lack courage and conviction due to clear vision of life. The need of the hour is positive affirmation and confidence to take risks in launching creative ventures. We need to have the optimism of St. Paul, who was confident of doing everything in Christ and for Christ. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. phil. 4:13". We as consecrated women in our space need to grow day by day in to the fullness of Christ. And give credible witness of the Gospel to the whole world.

Wisdom comes, when we start living the life the Creator intended for us. Always remember, God doesn't need our capabilities. He needs our availability. so let us walk the spiritual path -say little, love much, give all, judge no one, forgive others and aspire to all that is pure and good.

Beauty of Creation



Sr. Mezita Pereira

Province of Nagpur

In the heart of the Bible, amidst its timeless wisdom and profound teachings, lies an enchanting narrative of the creation of the world. The Book of Genesis, paints a vivid picture of God's creative power and the beauty of the world He formed. We are grateful to experience this richness by being in the heart of Nature, its scenic beauty, to experience His nearness through ageless mountains, crystal blue lakes, diverse flora and fauna, chirping of birds, sounds of insects. Yes, I refer to Mariashram compound (Mangalore) where our community is located. The serenity and peace which envelop us, help me to appreciate God's beauty and to contemplate the mystery of creation and its deep significance through the lens of the Bible.

The Bible opens with the words, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen.1:1). These words, simple yet profound, encapsulate the awe-inspiring act of creation. They remind us that the world, with all its grandeur and intricacies, is the result of divine craftsmanship. We encounter the Garden of Eden, a paradise of natural beauty. Words like "Eden" and "Paradise" evoke images of a lush, bountiful garden



where humans and nature coexist in perfect harmony. This idyllic spot reflects the biblical idea that the world, at its core, is inherently beautiful and harmonious. "Let there be light"(Gen.3) serves as a powerful reminder of the radiant beauty inherent in light, which not only illuminates the physical world but also symbolizes spiritual enlightenment and truth. The Bible frequently references mountains, often associated with divine encounters. Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments, and Mount Sion, the dwelling place of God, are just a few examples. These mountains are not only symbols of grandeur and majesty but also places where humans connect with the divine, experiencing 'deep calling to deep.'

The beauty of humanity in Gen.1:27, speaks of God's masterpiece. "God created humankind in His own image." This verse speaks to the

intrinsic beauty of humanity. We are not just physical beings but reflections of the divine, making our existence inherently beautiful. This recognition fosters a sense of responsibility to treat all human beings with the respect and dignity they deserve.

I am fortunate to experience God's presence daily through His beautiful creation and to thank God for His marvellous works. During these past months as our community reflected on the creation story, it encouraged us to view the world as 'magnum opus' of divine artistry, filled with beauty and meaning. We found a deeper appreciation for the world around us and a profound connection to the Creator who designed and crafted it. This experience leads me to be grateful for everything and to perceive God in all of Creation.

Celebrating the first Milestone



Sr. Priyanka Ignecious Horo

Province of Tanmaya



On the auspicious day of 19th February 2024, St. Joseph's Convent School, Kotwada, M.P adorned in festive splendor, reverberated with joyous echoes as it celebrated its first Foundation Day. It was a day of joy and thanksgiving for the successful accomplishment of all the endeavors. For the school this was more than just a milestone; it was a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of all those who had contributed to its inception and growth.

On this memorable occasion the students of class 8th conducted a meaningful and solemn prayer service. The assembly began with lighting the lamp by Srs. Arpita, Seema, Priyanka, Miss Neha Malviya and Miss Harshita Tekwani, and a student of class 8th. The students of class 5th elucidated the motto of the school 'Virtue

Alone Ennobles' saying that virtue alone makes a student and not education or colour or race or caste. Thereafter the students from classes 5th to 8th hosted a short programme where they shared their personal experiences and were grateful to the school, management and teachers.

As two of the alumni Miss Deepanshi Pandey and Miss Neha Sharma are themselves a part of the school staff were enthused to share their feelings and gratitude towards the school and are proud to be a Josephite. They shared their cherished school experiences with all.

Further sisters Seema and Priyanka gave the message to the students. They enlightened them to count their blessings in life, practice virtues and to live a purposeful life.

Sr. Arpita the Principal of

the school shared her words of wisdom. Sister encouraged the students to grow as a virtuous person and a good citizen. Sister also said that togetherness brings unity and unity brings happiness. Keeping the goal clear in life one can achieve success. We are grateful to all those who have worked behind the establishment of the school, all the sisters, engineers, workers and contractors.

It was a moment of reflection, gratitude and inspiration, as the school community paid homage to its roots and reaffirmed its dedication to excellence in education. As the school looks towards the future, it does so with unwavering resolve, knowing that its legacy of excellence would continue to illumine the path for generations to come.

Tribute to Fr. John Peter Medaille

My Founder, My Inspiration



Sr. Pratima Lakra

Province of Pachmarhi

Fr. John Peter Medaille is my founder my inspiration. He is the person who has inspired me the most. His hard work, dedication, kindness and hiddenness have influenced my life immensely. My founder's hard work and dedication are unparalleled. To found a congregation he has sacrificed many things, worked tirelessly and never complained. This taught me the value of perseverance.

His kindness and humility have always impressed me. He treated everyone with respect and always helped those who are in need. Many times I have seen people show off themselves in front of others to please them and tries to become hero in their presence but for me it doesn't matter to be zero in front of others because God sees everything he will give me credit. He too have taught me no matter what disagreeable

things happen to me, never see them as obstacles but as profitable and necessary to my daily life. I consider them as effects of the tender and loving providence of God, I will love them tenderly and accept them willingly by spending time before the Lord.

In conclusion, my founder's qualities have inspired me to become a better person. I am truly grateful to have him as my founder and my inspiration.

My Founder, My Hero



Sr. Arul Mary

Province of Pachmarhi

A role model is somebody whom we look upon, respect and aspire to be like. It could be somebody at home, or any other person whom we have met, or seen, or read about that person at some part of our life. Their good qualities would make us want to be like them. For me a constant source of inspiration in my life is my founder Fr. John Peter Medaille. He is not

just my founder but also my role model. He inspired me in a lot through his touchable qualities. The most I like the qualities of my founder is self-emptying, humility, risk taking and ardent love of the Eucharist. My founder was a man of the spirit a great apostle, born for mission. This is what I would desire to be, spirit filled person, radiating the presence of Jesus wherever I

am. I have learned from him to have deep faith in Jesus Christ and a strong love for Him.

In short, my founder is my hero, my role model, my inspiration and the one who has made greatest impact on my life. I am grateful for his very personality and I hope to make him proud by following his example and living my life with the same values that he holds so dear.

My Founder, My Role Model



Sr. Koltida

Province of Pachmarhi

For a person to move ahead in life, he or she needs a motivation, an inspiration and a role model. For anyone to come up in life, the footsteps of a role model is very important I took Fr. Medaille as my inspiration and role model. Why? Because the very life that he lived was all for the glory of God, which gives me a lot of inspiration to strive towards perfection for the glory of God. As I look at the life of Fr. Medaille, right from his childhood onward he had a

great love for the poor and the needy. What I admire the most is that, he spent hours and hours of the day before the Blessed Sacrament. He looks at the Eucharist with closed eyes and got lost in the Eucharist. He had so much love for the Eucharist and makes the Eucharist as the center of his life. It is from the Eucharist he drawn all strength and energy to carry out the mission entrusted to him and to do the magis. His humility and simplicity, his hiddenness, not wanting to be known by

others and his missionary zeal encourages me to accept challenges that come on my way. His enthusiastic spirit and ardent love for mission energize me to desire to be a zealous missionary. I'm really inspired by the life of Fr. John Peter Medaille and I pray that I'll be able to follow his footsteps daily to depend my life on the providence of God. And do all that I can for the glory of God and live my life for God alone.

Cherished Moments at ICJ

Sr. Asinta Lugun, Sr. Anila Toppo, Sr. Sukanti Kerketta,
Sr. Sandhya Xalxo, Sr. Maneeta Varkadey

Province of Nirmala

When the young sisters are the hope for our Church. Inter Congregational Juniorate (ICJ) is a place where we come to prepare and know ourselves to shape and strengthen our vocation, and thus answer a call with full trust and become a true and fruitful religious.

These 9 months has been a tremendous journey as





we, 23 Sisters from 7 different Congregations came to this institution to nurture our concentrated life.

We are fortunate to receive various valuable classes by professional professors. Their powerful teaching and authentic life experiences inspired us to grow and live a meaningful and committed life. ICJ course consists of 35 weeks with sessions on various topics which helped us to grow spiritually, mentally, physically, morally and socially.

Biblical and Theological studies enabled us to know the person of Jesus and have a deep relationship with him. We have grown to trust God and venture into future mission with faith, passion and hope.

Psychological studies guided the discovery of our true self – all our strength and weaknesses. We were able to acquire tips to channelize negative feelings and heal ourselves from negative

emotions. We were like a bud, opening up into a beautiful flower each one unique and gifted, experiencing connectedness with the Divine and others.

“Don’t be quote tough with the culture of your time but be transformed by the changing of a mind.”

Moral studies helped us to recognize the inter relationship between God and creatures and how to be a true human being in today's society. The moral foundations of law, conviction, personal growth, love and social transformation has helped us to live a true and authentic life.

We were also privileged to receive classes on **feminist spirituality** which brought about change to see the beauty and richness of womanhood, empowering us to take up challenges with prudence.

Studies on different religions has widened our perspective towards other faiths to see the beauty and richness in each

individual religion. It has taught us to respect and accept others as brothers and sisters.

Team Spirit – Living with various Congregations was an exceptional and enriching experience. Each Congregation is unique and dynamic in its own way. Collaborating with a group having diverse charism and spirituality has helped us to be more adjustable, understanding and interdependent, sharing our gifts and talents with one another.

We the students of ICJ batch 2023-24 are filled with gratitude as we share the countless blessings that we received during the 9 months of our stay in ICJ which was a formative God oriented journey. The pages of our journey from the day of initiation till this moment are filled with cherished moments making it grace filled, memorable and a turning point of our life.

Strengthening our Vocation



Postulants Sonali and Pooja

Province of Nagpur

We, postulants of the Province of Nagpur, had a day of Recollection by Rev. Fr. Augustine D'silva, of the Archdiocese of Nagpur. He began his talk with a story of a girl who went to buy a pet from a pet shop; one which could guide her and be to her a faithful companion. The shopkeeper showed her various kinds of pets quoting relevant prices for each. The girl looked round but could not find one according to her choice and budget. Then, her eyes fell on a pet lying in a corner. On enquiring, the shopkeeper told her that that particular pet was not for sale. The girl insisted on buying it ready to pay the cost. After she moved out of the shop, the shopkeeper realized that she was handicapped. What was his emotion and feeling?

The moral of the story is that only a handicapped person would understand another handicapped individual. Every situation we create makes some sense of what we are and every call is a gift with a purpose.

The call of Mathew, the tax collector, is an image to strengthen our vocation. As Jesus walked by, He saw Mathew sitting at the tax collector's booth



and said to him: Follow me; Mathew followed Him. When Mathew was in the tax booth he had money, power, security guards (perhaps!) but when he came out of his comfort zone he left everything because he saw a merciful Saviour who could protect and save him.

Our home is a comfortable place, but, spiritually perhaps, we are weak and alone. Looking at our dryness Jesus calls us. He brings us out of our comfort zone to seek a merciful God. Most of us feel and think that we have sacrificed our family but it is not so. We, in fact, came to seek Jesus' mercy. Jesus wants not sacrifice but mercy from us. He does not count our sins but wants our unique self.

Later, we reflected on the life of Mary, Mother of God. Did Mary pray? How do we know she

did?

Our answer was YES: As all of us know, Mary was a woman of prayer. We know that Mary's best prayer was with the Angel Gabriel. She listened, questioned, listened again and responded. Mary prayed her Magnificat as she praised and thanked the Lord for all the wonderful things He had done in her life. Likewise, we are to listen and respond to our call and offer praise and gratitude for each minute detail of our everyday lives.

The prayer life of St. Joseph also teaches us three different aspects:

- *Personal prayer:* communicating with God.
- *Prayer while working:* without interrupting our union with God
- *Common prayer:* importance of

community prayer Wherever we are.

St. Joseph prayed, as each time the Angel appeared to him in a dream, his prayer was for strength and the ability to understand.

St. Joseph is a great model of prayer. We, are challenged, like Joseph, to pray through our dreams! A P J Abdul Kalam, India's former President, once said: "Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action." Dreams are not those which come to us while sleeping, but those which we realize when we don't sleep. So focusing on our goal and purpose, we are inspired to pray in our dream, like St. Joseph, until we

translate our dreams into action.

The feast of Epiphany (Mt.2:1-12) has a great impact on each one's life. The three kings saw a star and came in search of Jesus. The star was their Icon; when they arrived to meet Herod, the star disappeared, because it was an area of conflict. However, when they left the presence of King Herod, the star reappeared and stopped at the place where Jesus was born. The Kings worshipped and paid Him homage. After which they went back to their own country by another way. In our life too, each individual has an icon whether she is aware of it or not; this icon leads us to follow the right

direction. When we joined the religious congregation, we had an Icon that we followed; but gradually, during the process of formation we enter into various kinds of conflict. For e.g: unable to adjust with the culture of the place, language barriers, petty issues, and so on. We begin to lose our focus because we have forgotten the Icon that we followed in our initial stages and want to turn back. Rather, we need to change our direction without losing our real focus and purpose of life. This is where we strengthen our vocation and challenge ourselves to become true disciples of Christ.

Divine Grace bestowed through Mother Mary



Sr. Bimla Kerketta

Province of Pachmarhi

Mokama, "the Home of the Mother". The word Mokama comes from the two words Mukum and Amah. Mukum means a place or home and Amah means Mother: the Home of the Mother.

Today, Mokama has become a thriving city in the district of Patna, Bihar. It is situated on the south bank of river Ganga about 80 kilometers from Patna, the ancient Capital of King Ashoka. The legend of Mokama revolves around the princess who was to

wed a prince but unfortunately, the prince died in a hunting expedition. The aggrieved princess never married. And she embraced an ashram way of life, serving the sick and the needy. In due course of time, she was looked upon as a Mother. And her Ashram came to be known as Home for the Mother.

This legend inspired a young American Jesuit, Father Batson S.J who had a deep devotion to Mother Mary. He wanted this legend to become a living reality and Mokama

must become the Home of the





Mother of Divine Grace. His dream became reality in 1947 when a shrine was built called Mokama ki maharani (Queen of Mokama).

The shrine draws millions of pilgrims from various parts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and other states of India every year. The shrine Feast which is celebrated solemnly on the first Sunday of the month of February every year is an illustrious example of communal harmony and brotherhood. Special train facility is provided by the Indian railway every year for the pilgrims on the Feast day.

This year the Feast of Our Lady of Divine Grace was celebrated on 4th Feb 24.

Special Novena was conducted from 26th of January to 3rd Feb where a huge crowd of people participated. It was well organized by the Patna Diocese for the people who stayed overnight and participated in Night Vigil and Adoration. Night vigil and Adoration were led by the team from the diocese of Banaras.

The faithful waited hours in queue to visit our Lady and offer their prayers. There were three masses offered for the faithful at 6am, 7am and 8am. Healing prayers were conducted from 9am to 11.30am by Fatima Mata Seva Kendra, Patna. Confessions were offered in various languages: Hindi, English, Malayalam, Tamil etc.

At 12pm Rev. Fr. James George the V.G of Patna diocese led the Rosary procession. Rosary was prayed in various languages. The faith of the people was remarkable as every faithful rushed to touch the "Doli" of our Lady to get blessing and healing. Soon after the procession the mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. James George the V.G. of Patna Arch diocese with 40 concelebrants.

The Feast was celebrated devotionally and meaningfully which enhanced the faith of people and their intentions were fulfilled.

Mother of Divine grace
..... Pray for us.



The earth shook with the news.

HE IS NOT HERE;

HE IS RISEN!

And in that moment,

joy REPLACED DESPAIR

hope PUSHED PAST FEAR

life CONQUERED DEATH
not just that day, but for eternity.

We celebrate the **resurrection** of **Christ**

for what is meant then and
what it means for us every day;

a **sacrifice** that brings
FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND PEACE
to any of us

who put our **faith** in Jesus.

The Famous UMRI MAATA feast



Sr. Sanju Majhi

Province of Tanmaya

“The devotion is necessary, simply and solely because it’s a way of reaching Jesus perfectly, loving Him tenderly, and serving Him faithfully”.

As Catholics, we have a great devotion to the saints. And with good reason as saints are good models for us in our faith. They have practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God’s grace. “The Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors.”

Many people across the globe, regardless of their caste or creed have great love and devotion towards Mary our mother. This is seen during Marian feast in different shrines. The devotees visit the shrines to pray for various intentions. There are a few places where Marian feast is celebrated in the month of January. “Umri Maata” Feast is one of them. Umri Maata shrine is situated at Mohankot Parish, in Jhabua Diocese, M.P. Rev. Fr. Thomas P.T. began this devotion to entrust the people of this Parish under the care and protection of



loving Mother Mary. The word ‘Umri’ in Bhili language means ‘Tree’. As a tree gives shelter and protection to all the needy, Mother Mary too shelters her children under her loving care and protection.

Umri Maata feast is celebrated every year very solemnly. This year too this feast was celebrated on 28th January 2024. As a preparation, nine days novena was conducted. Different priests were invited to preach and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. It was remarkable that this time three Bishops- Leo Cornelius, Devapasad Ganawa and Peter Kharadi graced the occasion. Many priests, religious

and nearly two thousand people from different parishes of Jhabua diocese, participated in this feast. Bishop Leo Cornelius was the main celebrant of the day. The procession began at 2 p.m from the Parish Church to the shrine where the Holy Eucharist was celebrated.

All the devotees of mother Mary participated whole heartedly and unceasingly pleaded the intercession of Mother Mary for all their intentions. Thereafter delicious food as ‘Prasad’ was served for everyone. Eventually the Marian devotees departed with great devotion carrying Umri Mata in their heart and to their homes.

Inter-faith Meet



Sr. Claudia Mendes

Province of Nagpur

The Interfaith meet conveyed the message that as children of Mother Earth we belong to 'ONE GLOBAL FAMILY' striving for a better future. Our Educational Institution has always been a centre of Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (DEI). We embrace students from all backgrounds, regardless of their faith tradition or culture heritage, because we strongly believe that education is a universal right that transcends boundaries. In a world that seems divided, our Institution stands as a Beacon of Unity and Harmony. We cater to co-education with two mediums of Instruction – Hindi and English; the same Staff are responsible for both.

The Local Ordinary was the Chief Guest for the occasion; both civil and religious authorities were Guests of Honour who together with Heads and representatives of diverse religions, shared the dais with the Chief Guest.

The presence of religious heads conveyed a powerful

message to students, parents and invitees that together as Pilgrims of Hope, united we walk in peace and harmony with nature - a perfect example of unity in diversity. The audience gave a standing ovation to the religious heads as they released a dove, the symbol of peace, love and freedom. Through this Interfaith Meet,

St. Joseph's High School, Kamptee reflected the Theme of the SYNOD: "A CARAVAN OF SOLIDARITY" where all are welcome, loved, known and continue walking together beyond fragmentation and polarization to be a powerful sign for the culture of our times.



Building the Young to Build the Nation



Sr. Sagaya Rani

Province of Tanmaya

Building the young to build the nation was the theme for our Educational Institutions all over the country which belongs to Tanmaya Province for the Academic year 2023-24. There are thousands of students who pass out every year from our institutions, carrying along with them, the Josephite values, culture and memories. Every year we follow one common theme, So this year the education commission of the province came out with the unique theme, *Building the young to build the nation* knowing that 'Young people are the back bone of the nation.'

The schools planned and executed many activities to bring out the creativity, intelligence, interests, skills, passions etc. and the students were extremely good to use their energy with full gusto and enthusiasm in all the planned activities and competitions. They firmly believe that they are the future and they have a social responsibility to play an important role in the progress of our country.

Knowing well, school is the best medium to build the child's future, during the session 2023 – 2024, all the schools have brought out this theme adding variety through Annual

function.

Come let us glance through...

Qafila – The Journey

This year St. Joseph's Convent Namli, celebrated its 10 years of fruitful journey showing how each year was remarkable in the history of each student. In this school, the first generation is being educated. So the beginnings were difficult yet our pioneer sisters and teachers went to door to door to encourage the parents to educate their children. These were depicted well during the function reminding everyone that they have grown and have faced many challenges to adapt to the new language and learning. Students expressed their gratitude to all the teachers and to the Institution for making them efficient leaders.

Pragyaan - the Englightenment

St. Joseph's Convent School, Ratlam, paid a big tribute to scientists and engineers for the successful soft landing of ISRO's Third Moon mission Chandrayaan – 3's. The school honored one of the scientists who belong to Ratlam and who was part of the ISRO. It was a proud moment for everyone present there and the students were highly encouraged to become adequate and skillful.

"SRJANKAAR"- Each child is a beautiful product of the environment

The Annual function which was held in St. Joseph's Convent school, Khandwa was truly a remarkable one. School is a transforming journey that teaches values in life. Teachers are like the potter and children are like clay who allow themselves to be moulded by the Potter's hands. This was expressed throughout the whole program. The theme of this program was "SRJANKAAR" each child is a beautiful product of the environment. Society has a vital role in building attitudes, belief systems, moral values, and ideas to be good citizens of our nation. Children believed that they are the future of our nation and it's in them who ignite our nation to shine like the sun.

Nanhe Parindey – Little Angels

The theme of the programme was Nanhe Parindey at St. Joseph's Convent Shishu Bhavan, Sagar. It was a theme to celebrate our young children, cherish the capability of their young beautiful innocent minds that absorb everything.

The vibrant tiny stars of SJC, Sagar amazed everyone through their excellent anchoring throughout the function.

They exhibited their future by becoming responsible citizens displaying different professions of the country. The venue reverberated with thunderous applause; gleaming faces exchanged appreciative nods as the audience witnessed the show of true innocence and vitality. The exhilarating show was an unforgettable experience and left a lasting impression on the minds of everyone present. It was indeed a display of talents and fervor by Nanhe Parindey of Kindergarten students.

'Aarohan' - soaring high

St. Joseph's Convent School Ratlam, Primary and Kindergarten organized its 29th Annual Sports Day with

a dynamic and splendorous theme, 'Aarohan' soaring high, emphasizing ascent of young minds turning dreams into reality.

YUVA- The young

St. Joseph's Convent Primary School, Sagar depicted the theme YUVA-the young minds of our country. Through their Annual sports meet they based their performance on 5 key values in order to become responsible youth - Confidence, Courage, passion, determination and discipline. They had the privilege to have the General Councilors Srs. Maria Cristina and Elisa Fatima to witness the YUVA.

Vilomah - The Lost Child

St. Joseph's Convent School, Pulluvazhy set up the stage with the theme Vilomah - The Lost Child. This poignant

play showcased the rich Indian culture and the resilience of the human spirit amidst the tumultuous backdrop of the Partition era. Through the story of a lost child who grew up to become a soldier in the Indian Army and sacrificed his life in the Kargil war, the play beautifully illustrated the themes of sacrifice, national service, and reconciliation. The emotional journey portrayed on stage left a lasting impact on the audience, eliciting profound reflections on the shared history and values that bind us as a nation.

The academic Year 2023-24 in our institutions truly witnessed the joy of moulding the young to be present and future responsible citizens not only for the country but also for the Global citizenship at large.



Women's Day Extravaganza



Sr. Lavina Lobo

Province of Nagpur

A woman is acknowledged as God's beautiful creation. Every woman is extraordinary, no matter where she works, whether it's a home or office. Womanhood involves love, affection, caring, power, etc, that is seen in diverse roles, such as mother, sister, wife and so on.

To initiate 2024 Women's day celebration and to make us feel special, our Headmistress had a special prayer service while the school notice board was adorned in a creative, attractive manner. The entire body held in prayer, the women of the world, together with their families.

This moment was followed by a fun-filled day with the Staff enjoying a visit to an enviable picnic spot, a perfect blend of adventure and relaxation.

On arrival at the venue, we were led, with scintillating music, to our accommodation for the day, under the lush canopy of trees while we soaked in the breath-taking view of the surrounding landscape.

After a most-enjoyable breakfast, we launched out on a guided trek through the picturesque trails, immersing ourselves in the natural beauty of the area and discovering native flora and fauna, along the



way. The trek led us to tranquil village activities like farming, hydroponics greenhouse, (a technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil), floriculture, vermiculture. We seemed to go back in time as we played crazy games and shrieks of laughter echoed and re-echoed across the trails. We rejuvenated our senses, enjoyed boating on the calm waters while some experienced adventurous thrills on the giant swing. We got to see basket weaving and pottery, as well. It was indeed a feeling of returning to our early formative years.

Our mid-day meal consisted of a delicious spread of the local cuisine, savouring the flavours of traditional dishes prepared with fresh ingredients sourced from the region.

Later in the day, we opted

for more leisurely activities, which included lounging in hammocks in the sunshine. As the day drew on, we were pleasantly surprised with more fun games and surprises, which included a fashion show entitled "Pretty Woman."

It was time to pack up and as we drove back, we exchanged pleasantries on the happenings of a perfect day, spent at Monteria Village, revelling in the memories of a Women's Day, well spent. for with asked them to visit in the Hospital.

The target group was 30 women of the area but Approximate 50 women from the Narmada colony came for the Health Check-up. Camp was successfully organized and ended at 3 pm with snacks and group photographs.

Giving is the Greatest Act of Grace



Sr. Reena Kumari Francis

Province of Pachmarhi

We have seen a lot of people who go out of their way to help, to make the world a better place to live in, to try and make a change in the lives of those that they are close to. Grace giving is sincere. It reflects the believer's sincere love for God and desire to do His work in the world. We the sisters from St. Joseph's convent school, Bonaigarh decided to set a day apart to share our time with poor children in the village. The purpose of spending time with poor children was to share what we have and encourage them to explore their ability and set their wings high to fly as the other children.

So, with joyful heart we sisters, along with our parish priest, journeyed together on 4/2/2024 (Sunday) and reached the village name Dahichur. The village was surrounded with beautiful nature. Since it was Sunday two villages together had mass. During the mass father highlighted the point taken from second Corinthians 8:7-15 which spoke about believers sharing everything they had, in the belief that Christ would return soon. God asks us to give a small proportion of what he



has given us. There should be a relationship between the amount God gives us to take care for and the small amount we give to others. After the mass we moved towards village playground, where nearly 60 children were getting ready to play. The headmaster of village school, along with teachers conducted several games such as 100 metre race, sack race, marble and spoon race, long jump etc. All the Children participated in all the games. They were filled with energy and joy. The last game was for all the villages who had come to see their children's game. Sister Sandhya had bought the prizes for all the children. So, she invited parish priest and Sister Mariam to distribute the prize for children. After the prize distribution, around 4:00 PM,

we had lunch with children and villages. Our day was filled with God's grace and we experience that when we give generously out of love for God and His people, it shows that we want to help the less fortunate people in the world.

Give out of love, not obligation.

Give when it's least expected.

Give from your heart.

Give of yourself.

Give to show that you care.

Give help without causing helplessness.

Give something that takes personal sacrifice.

Give without being asked.

Give of your experience.

Give to those who need it most.

Human Trafficking - A Social Crime

St. Joseph's Convent, Chembur

Province of Nagpur

With the Theme for the Year 2024: JOURNEYING IN DIGNITY: LISTEN, DREAM, ACT, our Sisters of the community took this day very seriously and prayerfully, recalling that St Josephine Bakhita's life was marked by tragedy and hardships from a very tender age while working with her mother, in the fields.

We are deeply grateful to International JPIC, for having thought of and spelt out a well-prepared prayer service for 8th February 2024. It serves as an eye-opener for the depths of depravity and cruelty into which humanity is sinking day by day!!

Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. It is distinct from people smuggling, which is characterized by the consent of the person being smuggled. The prayer service led us on a journey from darkness of exploitation to the light of human dignity and freedom, thus helping us to protect and promote their rights.

We are familiar with the sad life of Josephine Bakhita who was captured and sold and re-sold into slavery, beaten abused, tortured till she forgot her own name. Because of her bitter experiences, she is recognized as the Patron Saint of victims of HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



Bakhita, in chains, is a shining ray of Hope for victims of Human trafficking and an inspirational survivor of the same.

Before the Blessed Sacrament exposed and adored, glorifying the Sacred Presence of Jesus, in whom alone we find Redemption and Liberation, the Community was invited to LISTEN – DREAM – ACT, reflecting on the realities of human trafficking and the five elements of Nature i.e. Earth, Water, Air, Fire, Metal.

Earth- the Foundation of human dignity;
Water -flow of compassion and empathy;
Air-the breath of freedom and justice;
Fire-the power of resilience and empowerment;
Metal-the ability to cut through life.

Having an appropriate Introduction, Readings, Inter-Faith texts, Prayers, Symbols of

Earth – Water – Air – Fire – Metal, the International Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking was meaningfully conducted and consciously prayed in the Community as our Sisters, realizing with greater awareness that Human trafficking happens in every country, became more conscious of our duty to help protect the weak and exploited.

Human Trafficking thrives in situations where peoples suffer from poverty, conflicts, turmoil, natural calamities, and other life-threatening events. It increases where the rule of Law is weak and the vulnerable lack opportunities. Statistics of present day realities cause us to tremble, making us realize that it is our inborn duty to protect the most vulnerable which, in turn, leads us to attack a GLOBAL SYSTEM which caters to this exploitation. This hour of prayer was indeed profound and sublime encouraging us to be responsible for our members who could be inhumanly exploited.....

Dazzling Silver Years of Gratitude



Sr. Sara Mary John

Province of Nirmala

2023 marked a monumental year in the annals of St. Joseph's Ashram and St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Bhainsakar, Chhattisgarh. A tiny seed that was sown in 1998 with faith in Divine Providence, sprouted into something remarkable and nurtured through challenges, has grown into an enormous tree providing shelter and fruit in the service of God's people. Reminiscing the past brings us to the time when the Sisters of St. Joseph reached Bhainsakar on 12th June 1998, in response to the invitation from the then Bishop of Ambikapur, Rt. Rev. Patras Minj. Fr. Vincent, the Parish Priest and people from 13 villages presented a warm and cheerful welcome with a multihued culture reflecting vibrant colours of tribal life.

Bhaisakhar mission started with a humble beginning like a tiny seed. Mr. Simon Lakra, a village teacher, provided a part of his house for the Sisters to stay. Thus, started the first community with Sr. Rosamma, Sr. Anila Asharikunnel, Sr. Bibiana Philip and Sr. Asha Toppo.

Sr. Rosamma animated the community and along with the Sisters reached out in Socio-Pastoral Ministry. The School started in the village chapel with 65 students and S. Bibiana



and Novice Asha Toppo as the first teachers. A Dispensary was set up by S. Anila in the veranda of the house where the sisters stayed. Later in response to the need of the time and place, hostel was provided for the children coming from far away villages.

1998 to 2023 – Twenty and five years have passed with the tiny seed grown into an enormous tree. Moments of achievements and challenges have flown by, young minds with values and education have passed by, persons healed and served are gone by, but the mission has not stopped. The presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery continues beyond the dazzling silver years.

The crowning moment was the Eucharistic Celebration followed by cultural programme and festive meal on 7th January 2024. The presence of Rt. Rev. Anthonis Bara, Bishop of Ambikapur, Vicar General Rev. Fr. William Urre, Provincial Superior Sr. Anila Asharikunnel, the Priests, Sisters and Brothers from different Congregations, Parishioners, Teachers, Parents, Students and Ex-students made the day more joyful and auspicious.

We the Sisters of St. Joseph continue to nurture the tree of Bhainsakar Mission to bear fruit in faith and service, building a better world and a promising future for all.

Mission @ Rengarih

Rengarih Community

Province of Tanmaya

On 3rd December 2013, Sr. Regi Komoroth, the then Provincial of Tanmaya Province, India along with Srs. Dorothy Beck and Prabha Malayil made a purposeful visit to Orissa and Jharkhand to explore the possibilities of opening a community in this region. Most Rev. Vincent Barwa, the Bishop of Simdega has been repeatedly asking us to begin a community in the diocese and this was fulfilled.

They visited Rengarih Mission and met Fr. Anthres Soreng, the Principal of St. Pius Junior college. As it is difficult to get qualified staff to teach in the college, so he requested Sr. Regi to provide at least one sister to teach science and mathematics in the college. Hence Rengarih mission began on 20th June 2014.

In the initial stage sisters were staying in the college campus itself. But in 2021 our own convent was built. We are 3 sisters here. One sister is teaching in St. Pius junior college and other 2 sisters in St. Pius School. After our arrival many students have passed in science as earlier it was next to impossible. That is a great success. Beginning the strength was 10 to 20 in the science faculty. Now the number has come up to 60. So it is a great mission. Sister Asha is doing after her retirement and the college is grateful to her. She along with her teaching, guides them for a value based life.



We joined St. Pius English medium School in the year 2021. It was painful to see the condition of the school, teachers and the Students. There was no discipline at all. Students never spoke a word of English and teaching was very difficult. But we the sisters are trying our best to teach them and to inculcate values into them. Presently Srs. Vidhya and Ayesha are rendering their service in the school. They are struggling to improve the standard of the school as children don't get any help from the parents since they are uneducated. Sisters put all their efforts to bring up the children as education is central to our charism.

The students are fond of the sisters because they know that we love them and are doing our best to bring them up. Parents appreciate our hard work and the interest we take in the all-round development of the students. Once the head of

the panchayat pointed out that now they can see the standard of the school, and feel happy that students are able to understand, read and speak a few words of English.

Every year in the diocese they conduct different activities but our students were not taking part in it. This year when we came to know that there is a *cruzveer* Rally we took initiative and prepared the students for bible quiz, dance, skit, solo and group singing competition - they won many prizes, our school was the champion. It was praiseworthy, since they had to compete with big schools of the city. It shows that the children grow according to the efforts of the sisters and teachers.

We have not made any spectacular miracles in Rengarih. Our work is like a drop in the ocean.

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Free Medical Health Check-up



Sr. Preeti Kujur

Province of Nagpur

On the occasion of international Women's Day, a free medical health check-up camp was organized on 13th march 2024 at Ngo MVM (Maharashtra Village Ministry), Narmada Colony, urban Nagpur. Camp was organized with the collaboration of MVM and St. Joseph's Hospital, Yerla, to mark the international women's day of that area.

MVM (Maharashtra Village Ministry), have they're The Motto: Spend and Be Spent, Foundation: Faith, Prayer, Word of God, Sacrifice, Mission: The Church Planting and an indigenous Missionary Movement.

The team members of Hospital including one Physician (Dr. Jayant Samual), One nurse (Ms. Pooja), lab



technician (Mrs. Manisha) social worker (Sr. Preeti) and driver (Mr. Chetan) were welcomed and appreciated with the saplings. The Camp began at 11am with registration. Free Physical examination along with the HB, Sugar and BP were tested by the Hospital also given diagnosed, some health

issues for with asked them to visit in the Hospital.

The target group was 30 women of the area but Approximate 50 women from the Narmada colony came for the Health Check-up. Camp was successfully organized and ended at 3 pm with snacks and group photographs.

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But we are sure that our presence may change and shape the future of Rengarih.

Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

The principal Fr. Francis Xavier says, "Sisters are rendering excellent service, their presence have made a big difference. Their work is really commendable, I am

happy and grateful to the sisters that they walk always the extra mile."

Professor Rakesh Minj says, "Sisters presence indeed is a blessing to Rengarih, their commitment for the upliftment of the less privileged children is commendable, truly, honestly and immensely I salute your dedication."

The sisters are a ray of hope for the present and the future of Rengarih.

According to John Paul II "We need to reach deep within ourselves to find and use the gifts God has given to make a difference in the world.

By the Grace of God we are on the move following the footsteps of Fr. Medaille.

Interculturality – The Language of the heart



Sr. Shalini

Province of Tanmaya

“We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.”

- Kofi Annan

We are born cultureless but born with a capacity to learn cultures.

Thomas Aquinas says in his famous and well-known Summa Theology, “God loves and blesses diversity, because it belongs to his creation.” The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people. The very fact of living peacefully in a multicultural setting is the fruit of authentic inculturation and represents a significant step forward “in the lived experience of vowed religious.” Dealing with differences within an Intercultural Community means, we have to be able to live with differences. Today in the increasingly pluralistic world, the religious multicultural and international communities are called to become intercultural communities.

It was on 17th February 2024, I got a pretty chance to initiate my journey on giving classes on Interculturality with the sisters from eight different congregations, who are in Inter Congregational Juniorate (ICJ)



Bhopal, M.P along with them I had the opportunity to involve the postulants and novices of Tanmaya province too.

It was an enriching session, interaction and created in them curiosity and interest to know, learn and understand the Interculturality well. They were enlightened and encouraged to apply their learning in order to live this interculturality in communities in a more enhancing manner.

It was a great chance and the appropriate time for me to reach out to these young ones and share my knowledge with them and thus mould them.

And through their dialogue, group discussions and sharing among the trainees, I realized that even though it is a challenge but we can work together for a better tomorrow. It's really a faith filled response to build and work together and live together to bring God's Kingdom.

Interculturality is a language of the heart, let us consciously learn this language and let it flow smoothly in our journey of life as we are living in the midst of varieties of cultures that bloom like flowers in the same garden of the Earth. Let the fragrance of love flow and spread all over the world.

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