



January-April 2025



Volume 1, Issue 1

INDIA UNIT Newsletter



DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE (FMI)

District News

Extraordinary General Chapter

From **January 16 to 29**, **Sr. Theresa Ferre** and **Sr. Usha Thomas Vichatt** represented the Indian District at the **Extraordinary General Chapter Meeting in Rome**. This gathering proved to be a spiritually enriching experience for the congregation, as it offered valuable insights, communal discernment, and renewed zeal for our shared mission and charism.



FMI Chapter Members at Vatican

General Administration Visit to India

From **January 31 to February 11**, we had the joy of welcoming **Sr. Susana Kim**, our General Superior, and **Sr. Prudence Adoki**, Assistant for Religious Life, for their **official visitation to the Indian District**. Their presence brought great encouragement, spiritual renewal, and affirmation to all our communities.





Sr. Susana Kim & Sr. Prudence Adoki (in habit) with Indian FMI Sisters

Installation of the New District Council

A historic moment was witnessed on **February 9, 2025**, during the official **installation of the new District Council**. In a solemn and joyful Eucharistic celebration, **Sr. Susana Kim** read the **decree of appointment**, officially naming **Sr. Usha Thomas Vichatt** as the **first Indian District Superior**. This milestone was made even more meaningful by the presence of both Sr. Susana Kim and Sr. Prudence.

The celebration included the installation of the entire newly appointed District Council. The Mass was followed by a photo session and a festive community lunch, marking this significant step in the life of the Indian District with gratitude and joy.



Sr. Usha Vichatt, FMI, the first Indian District Superior



New Council with Sr. Susan and Sr. Prudence and Fr. Xavier and Fr. Joseph



First Council Meeting and Recollection

On **February 24**, the newly formed District Council gathered at **Nirmal Deep** for a day of **recollection and planning**. **Sr. Usha Thomas Vichatt** led the reflection, emphasizing **leadership in the spirit of our founders, Fr. Chaminade and Mother Adèle**. The evening session drew inspiration from the **Annunciation** and **Mary's visitation to Elizabeth**, reflecting on themes of calling, trust, and response.



The First Meeting of the New Council

The first planning session of the Council commenced on **February 26**, beginning with a **lamp-lighting ceremony** by **Sr. Colomba Yu**, Head of the Religious Office. The opening prayer, led by Sr. Usha, featured readings from Mother Adèle's letters and intercessory prayers through her, setting a contemplative and mission-focused tone for the meeting.

Vocation Ministry: March–April 2025

During March and April, **Sr. Nirmala Soreng**, **Sr. Reena Karketta**, and **Sr. Sammarani Soreng** actively participated in **vocation camps** held across various locations in **Jharkhand** and **Odisha**. These events were part of a broader **vocation tour**, offering young women the opportunity to encounter our Marianist charism through personal interaction, witness, and accompaniment.

Guided by the Marianist spirit of **faith, community, and mission**, these camps have been moments of grace and discernment. As a follow-up, we are joyfully preparing to host a **"Come and See" program** from **May 2 to May 17, 2025**, inviting young women who feel called to explore religious life more deeply with the **Marianist Sisters**.



Sr. Reena (left) and Sr. Nirmala attending Vocation Camp





**Vocation Camp and Sisters with
a few potential Candidates**



Lenten Recollection with the Marianist Family

On **March 23**, the **Marianist Family** in and around Ranchi gathered at **Nirmal Deep** for a **Lenten day of recollection**. The event was coordinated by **Fr. James Dungdung**, **Sr. Sammarani Soreng**, and **Mr. Jinius**, with reflections led by **Fr. Andreas Dungdung, SJ**.

Fr. Andreas focused on the theme of **kenosis**—the self-emptying of Christ—as a model for **community service and spiritual transformation**. His talk challenged us to embody humble service and personal conversion, reflecting the very heart of the Gospel. The day also offered time for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, followed by the **Holy Eucharist**. In the afternoon, we gathered to pray the **Rosary**, beautifully led by the **Marianist Lay Members** in the chapel, deepening our bond as one Marianist Family.



Shanti Deep Community Report

Warm Welcome to the General Administration

On **January 31, 2025**, the Shanti Deep community had the joy and privilege of welcoming members of our **General Administration** — **Sr. Susana Kim**, Mother General, and **Sr. Prudence Adoki**, Assistant for Religious Life — accompanied by **Sr. Theresa Ferre**. They arrived at **9:30 a.m.**, and were received with traditional Indian hospitality: the **washing of hands**, **garlanding with flowers**, and the singing of a **welcome song**, all beautifully expressing the **Marianist spirit of family, reverence, and joy**. This heartfelt reception set the tone for their visit, filled with warmth and spiritual bonding.



Sr. Tere (left) welcoming Sr. Prudence and Sr. Susana

Farewell Celebration

On **February 10**, the community gathered once again to offer a **farewell program** in honor of our esteemed guests. The sisters prepared a **simple yet meaningful cultural evening**, filled with gratitude and appreciation for their presence among us. It was a moment of deep connection, where music, dance, and words of thanks conveyed our affection and unity as one Marianist family.



Ongoing Formation: Preparation for Final Vows

From **February 2 to March 19**, **Sr. Seema Lakra** from our community participated in a specialized **program on Consecrated Life** at the **OCD Spiritual Centre in Kokar**. This enriching experience formed an essential part of her **spiritual preparation for the profession of her Perpetual Vows**, allowing her time for deep prayer, reflection, and growth in her vocational journey.



"Come and See" Vocation Program

On **April 2**, **Sr. Samma Rani Soreng** and **Sr. Nirmala Soreng** traveled to accompany our prospective candidates from their homes to the Shanti Deep community. Prior to departure, each candidate was given a **prayerful and affectionate farewell by their families**, affirming their support as the young women embarked on this sacred journey of discernment.

We were blessed to welcome **nine young women** from various regions into our community for a **two-month "Come and See" program**, which officially began on **April 2**. Upon arrival, the candidates were warmly received with songs and symbols of welcome, reflecting the openness and joy of our community life. This program aims to offer them a deeper experience of Marianist spirituality, prayer, community, and service, as they discern God's call in their lives.



A Candidate before leaving home



Candidates are welcomed to Shanti Deep



Santa Maria Community Report

Religious Jubilee Celebration

On **January 4**, some of our sisters participated in a **Thanksgiving Mass** at the home of **Br. Sanjay**, who celebrated **25 years of religious life**. It was a moment of grace and gratitude, honoring his steadfast commitment to the Marianist vocation. After the celebration, the sisters stayed overnight at his residence and, on their return journey the next morning, visited the scenic **Laodh Falls**, enjoying moments of recreation and fraternal bonding.

Blessing of the EYES Centre

On **January 23**, the newly established **EYES Centre** was officially **blessed by Fr. Xavier Raj. Sr. Celina**, the coordinator of the center, was present along with her dedicated team. This blessing marked the beginning of a new chapter in the mission of the EYES Centre, committed to the empowerment and holistic development of youth and women in the region.



Fr. Xavier Raj blessings the
EYES Center



Sr. Celine and her dedicated team



First Annual Sports Day – Marianist English Medium School

The **first Annual Sports Day** at **Marianist English Medium School** was held on **January 24 and 25**. **Sr. Colomba Yu** was the **chief guest** for the event. Students from **Nursery to Class 6** were divided into three vibrant houses: **Green, Yellow, and Pink**. Under the leadership of **Principal Sr. Anna, FMI**, the staff worked tirelessly to organize the event, ensuring it was both engaging and memorable.

The atmosphere was electric with excitement as students, teachers, and parents gathered on the school grounds. The event began with an **opening ceremony**, featuring a colorful parade, where each house marched proudly under their banners. Throughout the day, students competed in **track and field events**, including sprints, long jumps, and the much-anticipated **relay races**. Laughter filled the air during the **fun events** such as the **tug-of-war** and **sack races**, particularly enjoyed by the younger children.

The **Green House** emerged as the overall winner, claiming the coveted trophy. During the **closing ceremony**, **Sr. Colomba** congratulated the students on their spirit and teamwork, while **Sr. Anna** expressed heartfelt gratitude to the entire school community. The event left everyone with cherished memories and a deepened sense of school pride.





Visit of General Administration

On **February 5 and 6**, we had the joy of hosting **Sr. Susana Kim**, Mother General, and **Sr. Prudence Adoki**, Assistant for Religious Life. During their stay, we visited the beautiful **Dasam Falls** and welcomed them to tour both the **Marianist School** and the **EYES Centre**, providing them with insights into our apostolic works and community life.



Sr. Susan and Sr. Prudence with Santa Maria Community Sisters





We visited Dasam Fall with Sr. Susan and Sr. Prudence



Sr. Susan and Sr. Prudence visited our School

Silver Jubilee of Bro. Marianus Bilung

On **February 15**, our community joined in the celebration of **Bro. Marianus Bilung's 25th anniversary of religious life**, held at **Nirmal Deep**. The celebration began with a deeply moving **Eucharistic celebration**, lifting hearts in thanksgiving. Following the Mass, a **joyful reception** was organized and the sisters also actively participated, complete with **festive decorations**, **delicious food**, and warm fellowship, reflecting the communal spirit of the occasion.



Marianist Sisters with Bro. Marianus



School Staff Outing

On **February 20**, the **teaching and non-teaching staff** of the school enjoyed a much-needed **outing to Panchghagh**. The day was filled with fun, relaxation, and shared laughter. It was a wonderful opportunity to **build camaraderie**, refresh spirits, and celebrate the dedication of our hardworking staff.



School Staff including the Sisters

Retreat for New Councillors

From **February 24 to 28**, the newly appointed councillors participated in a **retreat at Nirmal Deep SM Novitiate**. The retreat served as a valuable time for **spiritual reflection, team-building, and strategic planning**. Through prayer, discussions, and workshops, the councillors deepened their understanding of their roles and renewed their commitment to serve the District with unity and purpose.



New Councillors with Nirmal Deep Community



EYES Centre Picnic

On **February 23**, the **EYES** organization organized a delightful **picnic at Pundda Pundding Waterfall**, located in **Torpa**. Families and friends came together to share food, games, and laughter in the beauty of nature. The air was filled with joy, the aroma of home-cooked meals, and the sounds of children playing — a true celebration of community and togetherness.



EYES Centre picnic

Visit of SM General Administration Members

On **February 18**, **Fr. Pablo** and **Bro. Denis**, members of the **SM General Administration**, visited our community. We were delighted to welcome them and shared a joyful **evening tea** together, creating a simple yet meaningful moment of hospitality and fraternal exchange.





Fr. Pablo (right) and Br. Dennis in our community

Pilgrimage to Dhorimata

On **March 8**, **Sr. Colomba**, **Sr. Celina**, and the **junior sisters** went on a **pilgrimage to Dhorimata**, located in **Bokaro**. They arrived at **11:30 a.m.**, participated in **Holy Mass**, and enjoyed lunch in a spirit of fellowship. After the meal, they explored the sacred site where the image of **Dhorimata** was miraculously discovered amidst coal — a place of deep Marian devotion and inspiration.



Dhorimata Statue in the church



Nazareth Nilaya Community Report

New Year Celebration at Nirmal Deep

The New Year was welcomed with love, unity, and vibrant celebration at Nirmal Deep. Sisters, brothers, fathers, and Formees from nearby formation communities gathered to begin 2025 in a spirit of thanksgiving. The celebration commenced with a prayer service, beautifully led by our enthusiastic novices, setting a reflective tone for the year. A delightful dinner followed, shared in joyful fellowship. The evening concluded with a lively tribal dance, showcasing cultural richness



Silver Jubilee of Bro. Sanjay Ekka

On January 3rd, Sr. Usha and Sr. Priyanka participated in the Silver Jubilee celebration of Bro. Sanjay Ekka at Mahuadan, commemorating his 25 years of religious life. The Thanksgiving Mass, presided over by Fr. Santos Tudu, SM, was concelebrated by the parish priest and Marianist clergy. Cultural performances and a festive meal followed. The next day, the Marianist family enjoyed a recreational visit to Sugaband Waterfall.



Founders Day Celebration

On January 14th, Founders Day was celebrated at the parish with a solemn Mass led by Fr. Birendra Kullu, SM, and concelebrated by Marianist priests. Fr. James Dungdung welcomed all, and Bro. Sanjay shared a brief yet inspiring presentation on the Founders. The sisters, novices, and brothers enriched the liturgy with hymns. A community lunch and joyful dance followed.

76th Republic Day

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Welcome and Farewell to the General Administration

On February 7th, the community warmly welcomed Mother General Sr. Susana Kim and Religious Assistant Sr. Prudence Adoki with traditional Adivasi rituals. On February 8th, a heartfelt farewell program was held, featuring cultural performances by our sisters and novices. The visit was a source of great inspiration and joy.



Visit of SM General Administrator

On February 19th, we welcomed the SM General Administrator with flowers and song. A shared lunch fostered fraternity and mission spirit, making the day truly grace-filled.

Community Picnic to Baghmunda

On February 23rd, the community enjoyed a relaxing picnic to Baghmunda. Time by the river, shared meals, and joyful fellowship renewed our spirits and deepened our bonds.



Ash Wednesday Observance

On March 5th, we marked Ash Wednesday at Chaminade Parish with Mass, fasting, and the Way of the Cross. It was a day of prayer and repentance, entering Lent with renewed devotion.



Welcome of the Jubilee Cross

On March 9th, we reverently welcomed the Jubilee Cross. The faithful gathered with songs and incense, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere. It was a time of blessing and reflection on our shared mission.



Wheat Harvest

In March, we harvested wheat from our field with help from the hostellers, Fr. Jinu, and Nirmal Deep novices. The harvest, a sign of God's providence, was joyfully shared with communities in need.



Feast of the Annunciation

On March 24th, we held a solemn prayer service led by the religious office. The next day, we celebrated the feast with a festive dinner and vibrant family night filled with laughter and joy.



Thank You Dear Sisters

On March 26th, a heartfelt vote of thanks was delivered by one of our novices to Sr. Colomba Yu and Sr. Teresa Ferre Sanchis, who generously dedicated their time and shared their wisdom through the classes they conducted. As a token of our appreciation, the novices presented them with flowers and a handmade card, expressing their gratitude in a thoughtful and meaningful way. The celebration continued with a shared lunch, creating a warm atmosphere of joy, community, and togetherness.

Day of Prayer at Chaminade Parish

On April 6th, Chaminade Parish hosted a spiritually enriching Day of Prayer, led by the Jesus Youth group from Asansol. The day was filled with moments of reflection, praise, and worship, creating an atmosphere of deep spiritual renewal. Several of our sisters and novices also participated, joining the wider community in prayer and fellowship. This made the event truly grace-filled and memorable.

Novices' Retreat

From April 9th–16th, our novices joined the SM novices in a retreat at Nirmal Deep, preparing for their first profession. This time of prayer, reflection, and deep communion with the Lord marks a significant step in their spiritual journey. The retreat serves as a sacred space for the novices to renew their commitment, strengthen their faith, and open themselves more fully to God's call.



Holy Week

As we journeyed through the most sacred days of the liturgical year, our community was blessed to experience Holy Week in deep prayer, reflection, and unity. From the joyful "Hosanna" of Palm Sunday to the radiant "Alleluia" of Easter morning, each moment brought us closer to the heart of Christ. We are delighted to share with you a glimpse of our spiritual journey.

- ***Palm Sunday:*** We joined the parish in procession with palms, recalling Christ's entry into Jerusalem.



- ***Holy Thursday:*** Holy Thursday began with the Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper at the parish. The washing of the feet humbled and moved us as we reflected on Christ's call to serve one another in love. The liturgy was followed by the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, both in the parish and in our chapel, where we watched and prayed with Jesus in His agony. Later, we shared in the deeply symbolic Seder Meal within our community. As we recalled the Passover, we were reminded of our roots and how Jesus gave new meaning to this ancient tradition during the Last Supper.



- **Good Friday:** The solemn liturgy and veneration of the Cross drew us into Christ's Passion.
- **Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil:** Holy Saturday was a quiet and reflective day as we waited in hope. That evening, we joined the parish for the Easter Vigil, the most beautiful and profound liturgy of the Church. From the lighting of the fire and Paschal Candle to the singing of the Exsultet ("Let us Rejoice") and the renewal of baptismal promises, the night was filled with awe and thanksgiving. The joy of the Resurrection filled the Church as we proclaimed: "Christ is risen! Alleluia!"
- **Easter Sunday:** Easter morning was radiant with joy. Our community participated in the hymns during the Easter Sunday Mass with grateful hearts. The hymns, readings, and celebration filled us with renewed life. In the evening, we shared a festive Easter meal, celebrating not only the Resurrection of Christ but also the new life He brings to each of us.



Marriage of Ms. Suman

On April 22nd, Sr. Nirmala, Sr. Sudeepa, Sr. Priyanka, and Sr. Madhuri attended the marriage blessing of Ms. Suman, our neighbor's daughter. The celebration was joyful and grace-filled, marked by community participation and heartfelt prayers for the couple.



First Holy Communion

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27th, several children received their First Holy Communion, marking a significant milestone in their lives. The holy Eucharist was celebrated with great solemnity, with Fr. Santhos Tudu as the main celebrant. The ceremony began with a graceful entrance procession, as the first communicants walked into the Church carrying candles, symbolizing the light of Christ now present in their hearts. The entrance hymn added a deep sense of reverence and joy to the occasion. In response to the invitations from the families, some of the sisters, namely, Sr. Ashrita, Sr. Priyanka, and Sr. Sudeepa joyfully participated in their celebrations in the families.



THANK YOU!

