

Green the earth, love the earth, save the earth.

“God always forgives, we men and women forgive sometimes, but nature never forgives. If you give her a slap, she will give you one. I believe that we have exploited nature too much.

As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling.

A Christian who doesn’t safe guard creation who doesn’t make it flourish, is a Christian who isn’t concerned with God’s work, that work born of God’s love for us.
– Pope Francis.

This message of our Holy Father urged us the sisters of St. Cecily’s Udipi, to make our earth green and to preserve it for our future generation. It boosted our energy and zeal after the call given by our Superior General Sr. Nirmalini, and also by our Provincial Superior and the province commission for green earth.

What a zeal and enthusiasm! Both young and the old, superior and subjects set out to the compound to clean and trim, dig and level the ground, sow and to plant. Some started to collect the seeds, dry them in the sun. Some sisters began to collect vegetable peels, onion peels, to prepare organic manure. Some started collecting plants from the neighbourhood, by being courageous when the dogs chased them. Oh! What a lovely scene in the garden. Some were found in the cowshed, collecting cow dung, some were found in the lumber room, collecting coconut husk, and some were found under the coconut tree and compound collecting stones and pebbles to decorate the plants. Finally the garden was set up, clean and tidy. We started our work to plant and manure the plants. Now no remnant was wasted in the kitchen. Egg shells for the rose plants, vegetable peels for the organic manure. When the seeds were sprouting each one’s wow experience was wonderful. The eagerness and love for the plants is so great, some sisters are found in the garden before mass, soon after the morning prayer checking and examining them. When the seeds did not come up the faces became like faded flowers, and when the seeds sprouted, the faces lit up like bloomed flowers. Simultaneously, herbal garden, flower garden and vegetable gardens are set up.

It’s not for the competition, but to save the mother earth and income to the community. We started this hobby from the month of April, May during the time of lockdown. We consume pure, tasty, home grown vegetables at table. All could identify the difference between market vegetables and home grown vegetables.

Why we alone human beings enjoy? The birds, squirrels, rats and mongoose also enjoy them. The mongoose come to eat earth worms and white ants and dig the plants, destroy them and go happily. But we feel heartbroken to see the fate of the plants. Any way positive thinking, that they too need food.

The gardens everywhere. In the institutions the paint buckets were collected, painted them in green and red colours, made holes, filled mud and manure and planted the vegetable and herbal plants. The students, teachers, parents donated some buckets and plants. Teachers also began to work in the gardens along with us and it was much joy and fun. Now the plants are coming up slowly and beautifully.

This covid -19 has brought a numerous changes in our life style. It is a great joy and wonder, fun and learning experience by cultivating this hobby. There is no age bar for this hobby. The old are seen with their walking stick, and others are with axe, spade and garden tools.

Hope this will bring great result on our human body, mental and physical health. Let our mother earth become our home for survival for both human beings and animals. Let it remain green forever and sing the praises of God.

Sr. Maria Philomena A.C.
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St. Mary's Big Band at Sadhu Merry Kingdom

Can you imagine to be out together as Campus teachers? Indeed it was! When it happened? Of course it was on September 24th.

As we were planning for the Management Celebration of the Teachers Day, a brilliant idea dawned in the mind of our Correspondent why we cannot think of an outing together and get to know one another? All nodded their heads joyfully in agreement. Hence the plan went on. Good News was announced on 4th September at the campus get to gather of the teachers. Vow! You can imagine the wonderment of the teachers. All were curious to know the place. Was it revealed? No! Everything was in suspense.

A much awaited day dawned. Mass was anticipated for 6a.m. Having received Jesus in our hearts, we set out in hustle and bustle, picked up the little packets carefully packed with all the snacks and fruits needed for the day we paved our way to the Railway Station. The teachers arrived with their colorful attire and boarded the bogie reserved only for us. The joy and excitement was unimaginable.



The teachers really forgot themselves and screamed, shouted, sang, played and entertained each other. At each junction when other passengers entered in without our knowledge, vacated the place as soon as possible with the noise of the teachers. There was no discrimination between K.G. or PUC or Primary or High School Staff. All were one in heart and spirit. All were anxious to reach the spot. At last we reached the spot at 10.30a.m. All ran in different direction to get into swimming suit. All the heads of the Institutions were surprised to see their teachers like little kids with long, short, frilled dresses.

Without minding their hunger and thirst each of them chose the game they liked most and enjoyed to the full. It was like Karavali Utsav, enjoying funfair.



After enjoying all the dry games, without minding the scorching heat of the sun everyone waited to be fortified with a sumptuous meal. Indeed everyone was satisfied with the meal that was served by the lady chefs.

All had their food hurriedly in order to have the funfair in the water which was only in the afternoon. It was really a thrilling experience. Each of them danced, played and enjoyed in the water thoroughly without leaving any game. Teachers forgot their homes for a while. For some it was a first experience, for others second or third. But all the same everyone enjoyed as though they visited the place for the first time.

Having enjoyed the whole day out, you might think that the teachers took rest while they returned. No! To our surprise they continued the day's spirit till we reached our



destination. We returned with grateful hearts to God and to one another. All reached their home with sweet memories in their hearts.

Wow! It was a splendid and glorious day for all at St. Mary's. May the same spirit keep us united and enthuse us to be generous and zealous in our Mission.

Praise the Lord.



Sr. Maria Philomena A.C.

Radiating Joy by 90+ and 80+

“Anyone who has met the Lord and follows him faithfully is a messenger of the joy of the Spirit. The first thing for a disciple is to be with the Master, to listen to him and to learn from him”.

Having known the art of communing with Jesus, their Master, the senior citizens of our community are bubbling with joy to share it with all in their own way which is an inspiration for us their younger sisters. Let me begin with our Lawyer of St. Mary's and the youngest of our community and Province. All most everyone is familiar with her. All have come across to her in the Formation house of Maryhill. She was known for her culinary art and everyone enjoyed the tasty dishes prepared by her. Do you know who she is? She is none other than our dear Sr. Vincentina, who is 90 years young, always we find her with a walker, beaming with joy. Always you will

find her smiling and wants the others also to be the same in spite of all aches and pains.

You may be interested to know how she keeps herself young. Either cold or hot, summer or winter every morning she is up at 5a.m. to sing the praises of the Lord. Even though she finds difficult to hold the Breviary in the hand, yet her worry is to get the proper page and proper hymn book in her place. At times she is happy holding the book upside down and sometimes on the floor when she is fast asleep in the arms of her Beloved like St. Therese. She is very prompt in praying for the community during the intercessory prayers, sharing the reflections during the community hour of prayer and leading a decade of Rosary loud and clear.

She is the clown of our community. Anyone can enjoy at her expense. Her anger is momentary. Her childlike spirit is liked and enjoyed by everyone. She loves to entertain everyone during recreations and other occasions by her wit and wisdom. No one can surpass her in argument. She has a smart answer to everyone. She keeps herself very clean and tidy. She misses the sisters when they are not at home specially the Superior. She waits for the Superior for lunch. She loves to eat plantains and sweets. Somehow she manages to get a sweet and a plantain every day.

“Faithful discipleship is grace and love in action. He invites us to proclaim him with joy as the Risen one, but he asks us to do so by word and by the witness of our lives, in daily life”.

A joyful presence beaming with joy from a youthful and jovial 80+ Sister Maria Julia D’Sa. Always punctual for Community prayer and other community exercises and takes interest to encourage everyone to be present for the same. Even though she is weak in health, tries her best to sing and pray along with the community. She is ever ready battery to ring the signal bells for prayer and lead the Rosary with various intentions. She is the great devotee of St. Antony, St. Joseph and Sacred heart. So whenever we lose things we run to her for her prayers which she does promptly and faithfully till we receive the favour. Daily she collects the flowers from the garden to offer these Saints. She is interested in everyone. She has a large heart to love and forgive.

She is a entertainer of our community. Anytime she is ready with her Goan Mando and apt verses with flowers, to greet the sisters or any guests on any special occasions. She is

known for her art and craft. Her flowers decked various famous shops of Mangalore. Jubilees and feasts are not completed without her artistic decorations on the walls and in the Chapel. She finds time to prepare vases in the Chapel. She loves cooking and prepares various , delicious dishes for the community specially soup and Goan dishes like Lingis(Sausages). Though sick herself, shows lots of concern and compassion to the senior sisters in the Community. She is very alert when someone is absent for the meals. At this age too she is found in the garden, growing papaya trees and loves to give to the sisters fresh and juicy fruit. Like St.Therese, she has special love for the Priests and prays for them and offers sweets whenever they enter our refectory.

“Wherever there are consecrated people, there is joy, there is always joy! It is the joy of freshness, the joy of following Jesus; the joy that the Holy Spirit gives us, not the joy of the world”. These Sisters have been the joy of our Community bringing joy, freshness and togetherness. They have set an good example for us their younger sisters to find joy in serving the Lord in Carmel. We thank the Lord for the gift of all our exemplary senior sisters in our Communities.

Sr. Maria Philomena A.C.