



Vision and Voice

Dear Readers,

We are proud to provide you with the 3rd publication of our E-bulletin, SMC's Voice. In this edition, we sail through the busy months of August and September. August had a stressful start as we started with our First Terminal Examination in the first week. However, it taught us time management and a practical way of managing our stress and collecting ourselves in times of panic. Along with this, we spent these two months honouring and celebrating a few events which are important parts of our lives. In August, we celebrated the 79th year of freedom of our nation, while in September, we poured our hearts out to expressing the love and respect we hold for our teachers.

The activities that were the highlights of the prior months were the acts of kindness, inculcated into us by our school management, and promotion of creativity within us, through multiple activities. We witnessed dance competitions, singing competitions, debates and writing competitions, an Orientation Session and even a Moot Court Activity which helped the Legal Studies students catch a glimpse of how the real-world courts work. We would like to dedicate this publication's "Vision and Voice" to our teachers, who have always been a pillar of support, in every success achieved by us.

Dear Teachers, without you and your guidance, we would have never been capable of formulating this E-bulletin. It is through your efforts, appreciation and corrections that we are able to take responsibilities and hold ourselves accountable. We carry every lesson, every value and every acknowledging word, wherever we go, and take your feedback very seriously.

Thank you, dear teachers, for shaping us and pushing us always to reach our goals, no matter how unrealistic or unreachable they may have appeared initially.

Yours Sincerely,
Seejal Malang &
Aayona Dwivedi.

"BELIEVE YOU CAN AND YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE."
— Theodore Roosevelt

EVENTS Of the Month

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2025

CLASS 1 SINGING COMPETITION:

A Patriotic Action Song Competition took place on the 1st of August, 2025. Love, reverence and unity all wrapped in one, the students of class 1 filled the school with an air of vibrant celebration.

Participants from different sections of the junior classes, came together and performed coordinated steps with powerful expressions. In their voices, the spirit of patriotism echoed, and mesmerizingly, they depicted the beauty and glory of India. The Headmistress, Reverend Sister Martha, and Ma'am Amrita addressed the gathering, followed by the respected bench of judges, giving their insightful feedback, for motivation and guidance.



JPIC MOOT COURT ACTIVITY:

On the 1st of August, 2025, a special Moot Court Activity was organised by the JPIC team for the Legal Studies students of classes 11 and 12, in the school itself. The event took place in the Lower Concert Hall, with the idea of generating a professional and court-like feel. It took place under the guidance of our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, and our Vice Principal, Sister Namita as well as Ma'am Manisha. The aim behind this activity was to provide students with practical application and exposure to the legal world and a glimpse of how courts in reality work. This inculcated legal reasoning, courtroom procedures and advocacy among the participants.

The activity began with heartfelt words of welcome to the eminent Judges for the event, Reverend Sisters, teachers and students, followed by an explanation of the concept of a Moot Court and its relevance, especially for the students who are studying legal studies and plan to pursue a career in this field. The participants took on various roles of Judges of the Court, Advocates and Researchers and proceeded with a simulated Legal Courtroom, as they argued about cases concerning environmental issues and the violation of fundamental rights. The cases challenged the participants to apply their understanding of constitutional provisions, especially, the Right to Life and explore the balance between environmental protection and individual rights.

The session ended with feedback from the faculty, acknowledging the students' efforts, performance and enthusiasm, especially because it was the very first time that they participated in an activity of this kind.



"THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT."

— Peter Drucker

FRIENDS OF MARY WARD VISITED THE OLD AGE HOME:



On the 2nd August, 2025, the members of 'Friends of Mary Ward'(FMW), visited an Old Age Home, which was truly a heart-touching experience. The teachers sat with the residents, engaging in conversation, telling their stories and listening to the residents in turn. The visit was also graced by our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, and our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita, whose presence offered support to the team of teachers. It was a reminder of the importance of compassion and empathy, as the team witnessed the residents' grateful smiles and the untold stories of how they battled on in their lives.

INTER HOUSE SCIENCE QUIZ COMPETITION:



An exciting Science Quiz Competition was organised on 11th August, 2025, in the school auditorium. The students of classes 9 and 11 participated enthusiastically by forming four teams, each consisting of four members. The competition was divided into four segments, which were: General Science, Visual Round, Rapid Fire Round and last but not the least, Application-based Questions Round. All these segments aimed to test the students' knowledge, speed of thinking and presence of mind. The questions were prepared and asked by the quiz masters, who also made sure to include the audience when asking the bonus questions. That truly brought the event to life.

The winners of the competition were awarded with certificates and trophies by our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy and our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita, who took the opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the participants and gracefully highlighted the importance of Science, in today's world. The quiz was a great success, since the aim was to promote a scientific temper, teamwork and to ignite curiosity in the students, all of which were seen in the event.

"SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL, FAILURE IS NOT FATAL: IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE

THAT COUNTS."

— Winston Churchill

ASISC ZONAL CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION:

On the 11th of August, 2025, St. Mary's Convent Inter College proudly hosted the ASISC Zonal, 'Creative Writing Competition' in the School Library. Many reputed schools of the city took part in the competition. The venue was graced by a highly esteemed panel of Judges, comprising Mrs. Rachana Gupta, Principal of Blooming Buds School, Dr. Sadaf Siddiqui, Senior Assistant Professor, University of Allahabad, Department of English, and Dr. Pramara, Assistant Professor at The University of Allahabad, Department of English.

The event began with a warm welcome to the judges and participants, followed by a short prayer to seek the blessings of the Almighty, for a smooth and successful running of the competition. Mrs. Rachana Gupta gave a message that touched the participants' hearts, as she encouraged these future writers, to foster a habit of reading and to express themselves fearlessly through the art of writing.

The programme concluded with our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, imparting words of wisdom, which filled the participants with motivation, followed by offering of refreshments to the participants and the accompanying teachers.



FANCY DRESS COMPETITION:

On the 12th of August, 2025, the students of Ashadeep Junior High participated in a Fancy Dress Competition. The programme commenced with a short prayer by Ma'am Savita Lipton Kerketta, seeking the blessings of God, followed by an announcement of the rules of the competition by Ma'am Tanisha Kannaujia. Thereafter, scripture readings took place. A hymn was sung, before the young students started coming on to the stage. The young students dressed up as soldiers, teachers and doctors, spoke about the character that they were dressed as. The choice of personality was not restricted, thus giving the students a large exposure and opportunity to be whoever they wanted to be. Some even dressed up as freedom fighters.

The competition was graced by Reverend Sister Josita, who acknowledged the creativity and enthusiasm of the participants and gave a heartfelt message. The panel of judges was impressed by the speeches and appreciated the efforts taken, and also gave insightful feedback to the participants for future competitions. The programme concluded by announcing the runner-ups and the winner and, honoring them with prizes.



GROUP DANCE COMPETITION-CLASS 2:

On the 11th of August, 2025, a Group Dance Competition was held for the students of class 2, to celebrate the rich culture and tradition of our nation, through the theme, "The Spirit of India".

From each section, a group of 20 students was selected and they danced with energy and enthusiasm, reflecting beautifully the unity, heritage and pride of our India. The audience was mesmerised by their graceful steps and the confidence with which these young students performed with perfect coordination. The participants did not fail to instil the feeling of patriotism in the audience. The judges, too, impressed by the performances, acknowledged the efforts of participants and teachers, commending them for their outstanding output and team spirit.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt message from our Headmistress, Reverend Sister Martha, who praised the students for their dedication. Class 2B was announced as the winner, securing the first prize.

The aim of the programme was not only for students to perform well, but it was to learn more about the nation's unity in diversity, the culture and heritage, and the traditions which are proudly followed in various regions of India.



"IF YOU WANT TO LIFT YOURSELF UP, LIFT UP SOMEONE ELSE."

— Booker T. Washington

INTER-HOUSE PATRIOTIC COMPETITION:



An Inter House Patriotic Dance Competition was held on the 12th of August, 2025, for the students of Class 8. All four houses participated with great enthusiasm, creating a vibrant, spirited atmosphere. The participants expressed their love and respect for their country through dance forms including classical, folk and contemporary styles, reflecting on the theme, "Patriotism". The performances were judged by an esteemed bench of judges. Each House presented the theme with a uniqueness that moved the audience emotionally. Their creativity made the audience spell-bound. The participants used special lights and various props for effective visual impact, which showcased their innovative prowess. The patriotic songs used, perfected all the efforts and made each presentation impeccable.

After the performances, the judges announced the winner. Yellow House secured the first position for their wonderful performance that was well-coordinated, filled with unique dance moves and overall flawless execution. Green House and Blue House secured the second and third positions, respectively.

Our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, and our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita, congratulated all the participants for their hard work and dedication and concluded the event with warm words of appreciation.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 2025:



On the 15th of August, 2025, our motherland marked the 79th year of its independence, which the family of SMC celebrated with great love and joy. The programme commenced with an introduction of the Chief Guest, Reverend Sister Sumita, who hoisted the national flag, as the college echoed with the singing of the National Anthem. A prayer service followed, asking for God's blessings on everyone. Thereafter, the students of class 3 presented a Choral Recitation which reflected the bravery, courage and beauty of our country. Following this, the entire gathering sang 'Saare Jahan Se Acha', thus eulogising our nation and its rich heritage.

The students emphasised greatly on, 'How With Freedom, Comes Responsibility', which the citizens must follow. They spoke words that aimed to instil in the gathering, the feeling and motivation to do the right for our country, to love it and to respect it. The students of Class 8 and of Ashadeep Junior High emphasised upon patriotism, through a dance performance. The Chief Guest, Reverend Sister Sumita, in her address, appreciated and congratulated the participants for their efforts and spectacular performance. Furthermore, she reminded everyone of the true meaning of freedom and asked each person to do their duties in cherishing that freedom. She concluded the speech and the program by urging everyone to love their family, school and their nation.

In '21 SMC, for classes 1 and 2, the Chief Guest, Reverend Father Eugene Mascarenhas, graced the occasion. After being accorded a warm welcome, Father Eugene hoisted the flag, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, the students performed a Group Song and a Group Dance, both themed on freedom and patriotism. Father Eugene, then, conveyed an inspiring message on unity, responsibility and love for our nation. The day concluded with an appreciation directed at the young students for their vibrant performances, followed by a vote of thanks.

"IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERY DIFFICULTY, LIES OPPORTUNITY."
— Albert Einstein

CARD MAKING ACTIVITY- CLASS 1 AND 2:

On the 12th of August, a Card Making Activity was held for the classes of 1 and 2 on the theme: "Teachers: Guiding Lights, Shaping Futures".

The activity provided the students the opportunity to show their love, gratitude and respect towards their teachers through the cards, made in a creative way. They participated wholeheartedly and with great enthusiasm, pouring their heart out in shaping their craft material into the final product so that they could reflect their affection, personal feelings and appreciation to their teachers. The activity not only showcased the junior students' creativity, but also intensified their bonds with their teachers.

SUPW EXAMINATION:



The SUPW examination was held on 3rd September 2025 for Classes 3 to 10. The students were provided one hour for preparing the craft ideas, followed by its assessment by the teacher. With great enthusiasm and a tad bit of anxiety, the students began to work their magic, turning waste material into something vibrant and useful. Students were asked to turn waste material into dream catchers, pen holders, photo frames and the like. After the completion, the students were called to the teacher's desk according to their roll numbers, and were marked on the creative product prepared. The teacher also appreciated the students' efforts and gave them an insightful feedback.

This examination exposes students to thinking outside the box, and pushes them to excel not only in academics but also to dip their toes into the creative pool.

SPREAD LOVE AND COMPASSION- USM OUTREACH PROGRAMME:

On the 13th of August, 2025, the USM members and teachers of St. Mary's Convent Inter College, welcomed an NGO with whom there had been a long association, to a short interactive session. The program, held in the Lower Concert Hall, started with a prayer and a hymn, by the students. Interesting games were conducted by Sir Anurag Sharma and Sir Paramanand Kushwaha, spreading cheer and clapping amongst the participants of the NGO, who were underprivileged children living in the slum areas of the city. The teachers of the USM group handed out small tokens of love, spreading the message of kindness through sharing. The child visitors participated wholeheartedly by singing songs and interacting with the hosts. Towards the end of the session, each child received a bag of goodies and essential toiletries from the students of SMC.



"ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES."

— William James

TEACHERS' DAY:

On the 6th of September, Teachers' Day was celebrated at St. Mary's Convent Inter College with great enthusiasm and reverence, we, the students, feel towards our teachers. The programme began with a respectful tribute to Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, whose birth anniversary is celebrated on the 5th of September and who had contributed greatly to the Education System of India today. His ideas and visions continue to define the essence of education. 5th of September was also the death anniversary of the Nobel Price winner, Saint Mother Teresa. Even today, she remains an enduring beacon of humanity. A graceful tribute was offered to this great saint.

A short prayer marked the beginning of the celebration orchestrated for the teachers. A melodious hymn was recited, followed by the reading of scriptures, enlightening the audience with a meaningful message. A skit titled "The Garden of the Mind" commenced thereafter, which demonstrated beautifully how teachers shape and nurture our minds, showering our young hearts with values, compassion and commitment. The celebration resonated greatly with the CISCE theme, "Inspiring Minds, Building the Nation". The theme's main goal was to embed in the minds of students, the realisation that teachers are more than just educators. They are the architects of the youth and the nation's future.

The event continued with a reflective and inspiring address by Ma'am Dolly Datt, followed by a motivating discourse from our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy. Following this, the teachers and Reverend Sisters were escorted to the Lower Concert Hall, where they were invited to enjoy the beautiful lunch hosted graciously by The School Management.

The day concluded with our Manager, Reverend Sister Sumita, recognising and appreciating the teachers in a warm, respectful speech full of appreciation for their committed efforts.



A SCHOOL TOUR:

"Sometimes the best lessons are not found in books, but in the world around us." With this thought, on the 3rd of September, 2025, the junior students of class 3, were thrilled to explore deeply the place where they study, play, sit and have their tiffins with their friends, the very place where they create memories each day and call it, their "Second Home".

They were guided through the campus, including the Classrooms where they study, buildings in which they would have their classes or will be having classes in future, Computer Labs where they got introduced to the world of technology, followed by a tour of the Playground, a place for running and playing, then they went all the way to the Chapel, where they could build a connection between themselves and the Almighty. The tour ended with a visit to the Activity Hall, where creativity is produced in every minute spent.

This tour's sole purpose was to make the students aware of the place where they spend the most fragile and sensitive years of their lives, and to build a feeling of belongingness with their Temple of learning.



"YOUR TIME IS LIMITED, SO DON'T WASTE IT LIVING SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE."

— Steve Jobs

MEDITATION IS A TYPE OF MIND-BODY COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE:

On the 9th of September, 2025, an Orientation Session on 'Management of Stress, Peer-Pressure and Mindfulness Through Meditation', was held for the students of classes 9-12. The aim of this orientation was to help students who have to deal with the age-related pressure, the buzz of social media, academic pressure and chasing academic excellence. The session began with an introduction of the respected resourcepersons, Mrs. Radha Saxena, Mrs. Jyoti Mishra and Mr. Ritvik Solanki, who came from the Heartfulness-Meditation Institute. They shared their personal journey as Sir Ritvik Solanki told us how he himself, had begun his journey of meditation at a young age. The session was graced by the presence of our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita and teachers in charge.

The attendees were introduced to structured-breathing practices, meditation exercises and were encouraged to dedicate at least 10 minutes of their day to meditation, for it leads them to a knowledge of their inner self and to reach a point of calmness where nothing could move past their bubble of peace. Mrs. Radha Saxena emphasised on how to deal with stress and provided us with a solution to stress reduction. A few quotes which lasted in the minds of the attendees were as follows:

1. "Focus on being interested rather than being interesting."
2. "It is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice."
3. "To see the change around you, you have to make the change."

The session concluded with Reverend Sister Lissy, appreciating the efforts made by the resourcepersons and taking the time out from their busy schedule, for the orientation programme.



THREADS AND TRENDS-AN EXHIBITION BY FASHION DESIGNING STUDENTS:

On the 13th of September, 2025, the students of the elective subject Fashion Designing, from classes of 9 to 12, showcased their artistic and beautiful work in an exhibition, held in the Fashion Designing Room. The exhibition, named "Threads and Trends", was attended by our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita, Sisters of the Convent, teachers and the students of classes 9-12.

The pieces prepared and exhibited by the students, left everyone in a wonder of admiration, as they witnessed the wonderful creativity and fine craftsmanship. The awe-inspiring atmosphere created was to remain for a long time in everyone's mind. The display of fashion journals, tie-dye fabrics, macrame' jewellery, T-shirts, artistic sketches and design boards, brought out tradition and modern art, together.

The main attraction of the entire event was the gold-and-black masquerade party dress, prepared by the students of class 12. The dress was a show-stopper, receiving eyes filled with awe and admiration and praises from the teachers and the Sisters. Students stopped in front of the dress just to get a few extra glimpses.



"DON'T LET YESTERDAY TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF TODAY."

— Will Rogers

RATION DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME:

We have all heard the saying, "Kindness multiplies when shared, and that it is the simplest way to bring a change." Keeping this thought in mind, our school, St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Prayagraj, under the guidance of our Principal Reverend Sister Lissy, the students of class 10, distributed essential Ration items, on the 26th September, 2025, thereby spreading love and kindness among the residents of Leprosy Ashram through their activity.

This activity allowed the students to learn about the importance of food and value every meal, as there are hundreds out there who don't have the luxury of eating even a one-time meal. The students smiled, giving away the happiness that bloomed in their hearts. The teachers also participated in this, thus encouraging the students to take the path of kindness.



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR CLASS 9 BY ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION:

On the 10th of September, 2025, an Orientation Programme led by Alumnae of St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Prayagraj, took place. The session commenced with invoking the blessings of the Almighty, followed by welcoming the Alumnae Association through an offer of saplings made by our Principal, Reverend Sister Lissy, and our Vice Principal, Reverend Sister Namita.

The Alumnae shared their journeys, experiences and obstacles they faced to reach their dreams, which seemed too far to be reached at one point in their lives. Their main goal through this orientation was to inspire the minds of students of classes 9 and 10 to always dream big and to do whatever it takes to reach their dreams. However, they also emphasised the importance of health, extracurriculars and the crucial aspect of teenage mental health.

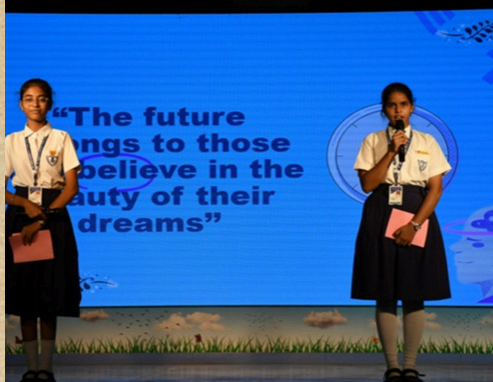
The Orientation Programme concluded with a vote of thanks, ending on a successful note as it motivated the students and imparted a meaningful message.



"HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD."

— ANNE FRANK

LONG ASSEMBLIES of the Month



*"IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE."
-Nelson Mandela*



"DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING."

— Sam Levenson

Students' Corner



— BY NANDINI BAJAJ, 10-F

Hospital Taught Much

In hospital, we find one or the other in pain.
Some are on the way to lose their vein.
One tries,
Another cries.
The voice of the crying echoes so high.
It tells — today one more dies.
Looks as if someone is scratching the
heart, sight by sight.
But forget about the dead,
Whose eyes are now bled.
People on the deathbed
Ask loved ones to meet,
And want to tell —
After some time, there will be no heartbeat.
Some feel death to horrible
And some accept it and say it's adorable
In the corridors of the hospital,
People with disabilities can be seen.
No hands to hold,
No legs to stride,
No ears to hear
The horrible voice of cruelty.
No eyes to see
The world's reality.

—BY ZAINAB KHAN, 9-D

Teachers' Corner

The Quiet Strength of Values

Every day in school, I watch young faces filled with dreams — some eager, some uncertain, all moving through a world that asks for so much. Amid lessons, laughter, and the rush of everyday life, I often wonder what truly prepares us for life beyond these gates.

Perhaps, it is not only the knowledge we gather, but the values we quietly absorb — through little moments that seem ordinary: waiting patiently for our turn, standing up for a friend, saying sorry and meaning it, or sharing our time with someone who needs it.

Values are rarely taught through words. They are caught through actions. They grow in the silence of small decisions — in how we treat people, how we handle success, and how we face challenges. So as you go forward, hold on to that quiet strength within you. Let your values speak — softly, steadily, and always with grace.

— BY SHOUMI DUTTA, TEACHER

Alumni Corner

Dear Juniors,

It feels truly special to be writing this message for all of you. As someone who has walked the same corridors, sat in those classrooms, and been part of the SMC family, I can't help but smile thinking back to those days.

Now that I've stepped into the world beyond school, here are a few things I've learned and I genuinely hope they help you in some way

- Soak in every moment. These years pass faster than you think. Laugh a lot, make memories, and don't be in a rush to grow up.

- Your marks don't define you. Try your best, yes but don't be too hard on yourself. Growth looks different for everyone.

- Be proud of being a Maryan. The discipline, grace, and strength this school teaches you will stay with you forever.

- Ask questions, speak up. Whether it's in class or in life, your voice matters.

- Be kind to others and to yourself. Everyone's going through something, even if it doesn't show.

And hey, it's okay if you feel lost sometimes. You're not supposed to have it all figured out just yet. You're doing better than you know.

With lots of love and best wishes,
Riddhi Mehrotra
Batch of 2023

St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Prayagraj

*"SUCCESS IS WALKING FROM FAILURE TO FAILURE WITH NO LOSS OF
ENTHUSIASM."*

—Winston Churchill

Our Patroness: Mother Mary - The Mother of Jesus.

From the very early years of our foundress Mary Ward's life, love for Jesus and trust in Mother Mary formed the foundation of her Spiritual life. Her devotion to Mother Mary was so great and tenderly dear that she urged her sisters to choose her as their special patroness; love and give reverence to her with all their strength and fly to her with filial confidence for all their necessities. She desired that devotion to Mother Mary should be the badge and uniform of the Institute. Hence, from the time of Mary Ward, the Congregation of Jesus and all its members have been distinguished by a particular reverence for Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Treasuring this sacred tradition our pioneering sisters dedicated our school to Mother Mary and christened it 'St. Mary's Convent School', which today is known by the name 'St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Prayagraj.

The sacred history of St. Mary's Convent Prayagraj as recorded by Mother Frederick Schoener IBMV in the book 'Under Mary's Mantle', tells us that, The blessing of the Convent building took place in 1887 on November 21st, on the Feast of Mother Mary's Presentation. There was a procession of the students, Sisters, priests and people, lead by Bishop Dr. Pesci from St. Joseph's Cathedral to the Convent. Entering the Convent they assembled around the statue of Mother Mary, which had been placed on a table, decorated with flowers. To quote Mother Schoener:

"A new beginning was created in the history of human kind when Mary was born. In God's gracious plan she was born to Joachim and Anne in their advancing years. God chose her from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne and filled her with the gifts needed to fulfill her special role as the mother of God. Undoubtedly, the most glorious girl child to grace this planet as "our tainted nature's solitary boast" was Mary, the mother of Jesus."

Thus Mary's birth was a momentous event in the salvation history of mankind; and in her life we see the magnificent design of God's plan, for the human race unfolding gracefully.

At the time, when God consulted Mary about becoming the mother of His Son, she surrendered her life to Him saying, "Let it be done to me according to your word", and lovingly placed herself in the service of God and mankind.

The Sacred Scriptures reveal Mary as a humble yet courageous woman whose 'Yes' to God made possible the Incarnation. Truly her greatness was in responding freely and faithfully to what God had chosen her to be, from all eternity.

The beautiful harmony of Mary's nature made her a model of being receptive to God's Word; being prompt in saying 'Yes' to God's will and in being sensitive, caring and other oriented. Because of her tremendous faith and trust in God she had a praise-filled and joyful attitude towards all events of her life. With deep faith and trust in God, Mary stood by Jesus from the crib to the cross on Calvary. From her life of faith and prayer we can learn how to listen to God's word so that it may bear fruit in our lives.

God entrusts his riches, his wisdom, his mysteries and his miracles only to the faithful hearers of His Word. Mary heard the word of God, kept it faithfully in her heart, pondering over it with single-minded concentration and continued unwavering in the long and hard way ahead of her. Yet in the eyes of the world, Mary did not accomplish great things. She was like any other house wife engaged in chores of her day-to-day life. But she lived her ordinary life in the spirit of her 'fiat', making it extraordinary. For Mary nothing was too small or too little; everything was important and had to be attended with equal devotion and attention. Mary was perfected through her faithfulness in little things and her glory consisted in the positive option she made for building up God's kingdom of love, justice and peace in our world.

Mother Mary is the bright Morning Star that lights up the dark corners of our world with HOPE. As we recall with love the countless blessings we have received from her let us sing a hymn of joy and gratitude to her and pray to mother Mary in the words of Blessed Mother Teresa:

"Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your heart, so full of love and humility.

That I may be able to love Jesus as you loved Him.

And serve Him in the poorest of the poor."

May Mother Mary, the empowered woman of vision and spiritual stamina, forever remain our Mother and Companion along the road of life.

Yours Sincerely,
Seejal Malang &
Aayona Dwivedi.

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