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IBVM SCHOOLS GET INVOLVED WITH THE INDIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In this number

In this number, we share the visit of Monica Suchiang, ibvm, and Veronica Makhal, social worker at Loreto Enthaly (Kolkata) to our schools and communities in Spain, a visit in which they told us about the difficult situation women and girls live in India.

In the international field, we focus on the Women's Day and the Post 2015 Development Agenda, in which Cecilia O'Dwyer, our representative at United Nations, is already working on.

Besides, Isabel Peche and Louise Latin, both ibvm, share their experience in the 'Renewal programme' they lived in the Spirituality Centre of the Jesuits in Manresa; we talked about the activities for children and young adults we had in Eastern, and other news related with the IBVM network.

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IBVM SCHOOLS GET INVOLVED WITH THE INDIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

On March 2015, two Indian women visited our schools and communities in Spain. They were Monica Suchiang, IBVM, and Veronica Mahal, social worker at Loreto Enthally. They came here to show us how life is in Kolkata, especially the situation of women and street children.

They talked about the difficulties women face from the moment they are born. From selective abortions and abandon to less possibilities of receiving an education in their first ages of life. Later, when they grow up, they can end up working as domestic workers, facing early marriage or being victims of trafficking. Besides, all women face the insecurity of the streets and the fear of being raped or molested when walking alone.

A hard situation that they try to improve from the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre offering formation and other opportunities for women.

During their visit, Monica and Veronica had the opportunity to visit Leioa (north Spain), Madrid, and Seville (south). It was a busy time in which they went to the schools and talked to the students, but also with the parents and past pupils associations... In exchange, they were received with dancing, presents (pictures for the Indian children) and had some time to know Madrid and



Seville, accompanied by Pilar González Cano, and Elena Cerdeiras, both ibvm.

It was a pleasure for us to have them here, and we had a very interesting cultural and professional



One of the pictures sent by the Spanish students to Kolkata with the message: "Help the Indian girls to study. Rainbow Project".

exchange. From India, they wrote to us: "The meetings with the students and the parents were excellent and fruitful. (...) The effort made by them not only encourages us to work hard but to extend our purview of action

through the projects. All the people we met during our visit not only support in various ways for our cause and they also take the ownership for all the projects that we run with their help in our country".

Rainbow Project

The 'Rainbow Project', aims to assure the Right to Education of the girls. What they have done in Loreto Sealdah School is to make possible for street children to have the same education than the regular students of the school.

This girls from the streets are mostly part of the population known as 'adivasi', an ethnic group that has been historically discriminated. Now, thanks to this initiative, these girls can break the cycle of poverty and avoid to end up working as domestic workers semi slave conditions, or being victims of trafficking.

If you want to know more about this project, you can visit their page at Facebook: [KolkataMarywardSocialCentre](#)



FROM UNITED NATIONS

Elena Cerdeiras and Cecilia O'Dwyer took part in the International Women's Day, on March 8th, when thousands marched the streets of Manhattan carrying and waving the slogan "Planet 50-50: by 2030: Step It Up For Gender Equality and Women's Rights".



The Post 2015 Development Agenda is an ambitious global vision that seeks to tackle extreme poverty, curb climate change, and put the world on a more prosperous path by 2030. It includes four key components:

1. The Declaration – a vision statement of what we want to achieve in the next development agenda
2. Goals and Targets – a new set of goals and targets to build on and succeed the MDGs;
3. Financing and Means of Implementation – the “how” of delivering the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and
4. Monitoring and Review – defining a process to track progress on commitments made by all stakeholders.

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the partnership for sustainable development.

FURTHER NEWS

RENEWAL IN MANRESA

After a decade in Ecuador, Louise Latin and Isabel Peche are back in Spain and they have taken part in the Renewal Programme held by the Jesuits in Manresa. Two months full of experiences, shared with other 27 people with time to discover and pay attention to the reality of the XXI Century, a time full of difficulties and opportunities.



JUSTICE AND PEACE

On the 20, 21 and 22nd of February, some IBVM sisters took part in the conference organized by Justice and Peace: "Past, present and future: the history of social and political commitment of the Church". There were three days of talks by theologian, historians and other experts with the objective of learning from the past to face the future.

LENT RETREAT

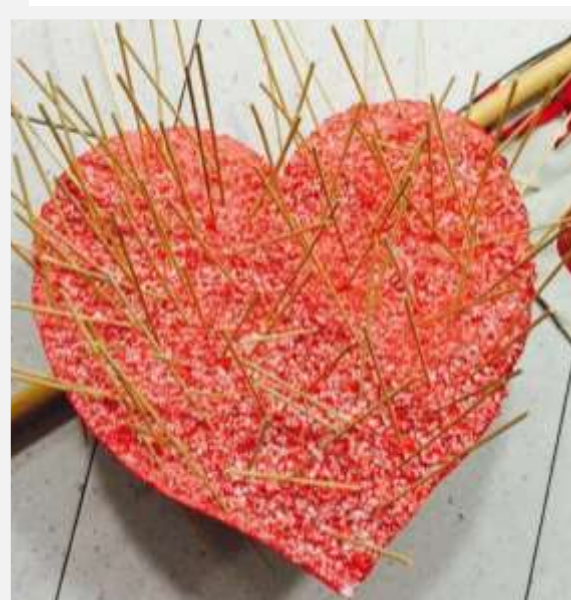
The Past Pupils Association of Seville celebrated the First day of Lent with a short retreat in Bami School. During this day, Carmen Hormaechea, ibvm, gave a personal reflection in which she talked us about how to situate God in the centre of our lives. / PILAR OSBORNE



DIGITAL LEARNING

The Past Pupils Association of Leioa organized in January this course about digital learning. Twelve women, from various ages and different background assisted to the course with the wish of update their knowledge with the new communication tools. / BLANCA BERGARECHE

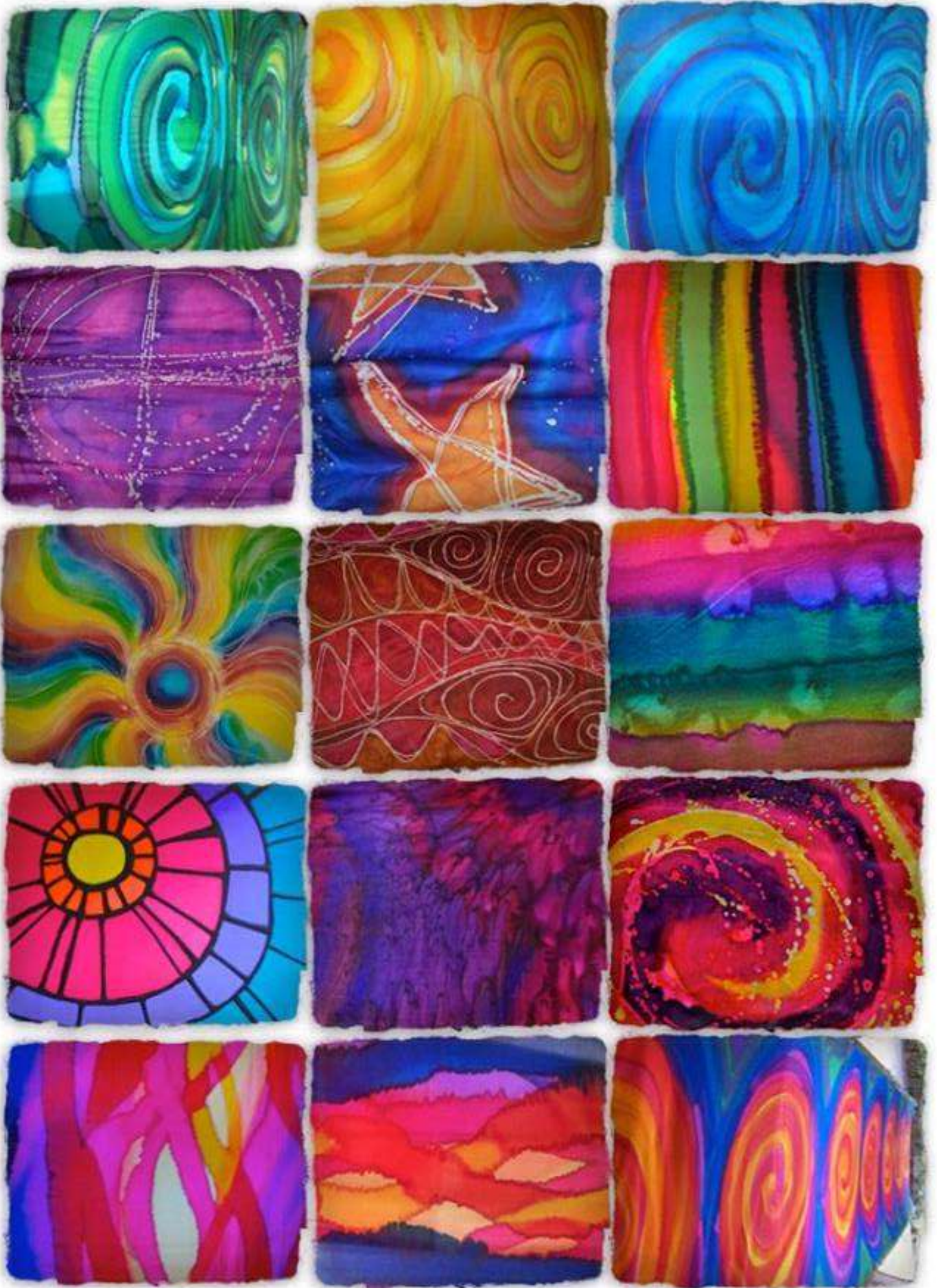
YOUTH ACTIVITIES



One more year, the youngest have deeply lived Lent thanks to the activities organized by the IBVM

Students from Cullera, Leioa and El Soto went to Medina del Campo (above) while those from Sevilla meet in our house in Castilleja (middle).

The Past Pupils (down) went to Suesa Monastery with the Trinitarias sisters.



Paintings by Susan Daily.