



## PUNE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN



### **Celebrating the Heart of Christmas: Family, Love & Togetherness**

**Dear AFJM Members,**

It is that time of the year we all look forward to. Our homes fill with a gentle excitement of Christmas drawing near. Preparations to celebrate the season fill the air. In these early days of Advent, we pause to reflect, to hope, and to welcome the joy that grows a little brighter with each passing day. As I pen down a few words the scene of the first Christmas at the Grotto of Bethlehem enralls my mind. A quiet, starlit night in Bethlehem—a humble stable filled with warmth, not from grandeur, but from love. Mary and Joseph cradle the newborn Jesus. As we celebrate this season, the Holy Family invites us to reflect on our own homes, our loved ones, and the timeless message that even the smallest, simplest beginnings can shine with extraordinary light.

This Christmas, as we gather together as a family, with our loved ones—around the table, beside the tree, or in the stillness of a shared moment may our hearts turn towards the quiet beauty of the Holy Family—Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child—whose love, faith, and unity shine as the true heart of the season. May the peace of that holy night fill your home.

May your family be blessed with understanding, forgiveness, and joy that grows deeper with each passing year. As we cherish these moments of togetherness and celebrate the blessings of this season I take this opportunity to thank each of you dear members of the AFJM, for your dedication, your support, and the family spirit shared among us all. May the example of the Holy Family and St. Claudne inspire us to continue working together with faith, compassion, and purpose.

Wishing each of you and your families a Christmas filled with peace, joy, and God's abundant blessings.

**Blessings  
Sr. Ursula Pinto and Sisters.**





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### Journey with the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary

This is exactly how I would describe my journey with the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary (AFJM) – a journey of grace, growth, and deeper faith.

I began my teaching career in a Jesuit institution, where the word Magis was often emphasized during our orientations. Magis, which literally means "more," refers to striving for quality – doing what we already do, but doing it better, seeking always the best option for the greater glory of God.

It was around this time in my life that I joined the AFJM, and the motto Magis became a guiding light for me. I was blessed to have Sr. Bernard D'souza, Sr. Alice George, Sr. Frances, Sr. Sylvia Mascarenhas, and Sr. Ambrose D'souza as the Sisters-in-Charge of our Clare Road group in Mumbai. Each of them brought their own beautiful spirituality of prayer, faith, and hope – virtues that became deeply instilled in me. Through their example, I learned to follow the spirituality of our Mother Foundress, St. Claudine Thévenet, which further enhanced the Magis within me.

Prayer, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and the Holy Eucharist helped St. Claudine overcome the many turbulent challenges of her time. For me too, prayer remains a vital and personal form of communication with God – a source of strength and peace.

When I was appointed Animator, my one and only prayer was:  
"Lord, help me bear fruit to make Jesus and Mary known – for Your greater glory."

As an AFJM Animator, there will be moments of discouragement – it's normal and natural. But never lose hope. Take everything to prayer, and remember that the Sister-in-Charge is always there to guide and support you.

To the many new members among us – I may not know your expectations, but I can tell you this: you matter. You have the power to make a difference in our AFJM family. Growth takes time; don't give up. Keep doing your best, and trust in the process.

Just as prayer brought together hope and mission in the life of St. Claudine, you too will experience this beautiful blend of faith and purpose in your own journey.

I'd like to close with a message from Pope Francis that deeply resonates with me: "I am a mission on this Earth; that is why I am on this Earth."

Before I end, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Bernard D souza, the pioneer who took initiative, formed and promoted the AFJM in Mumbai. Sr. Bernard – this is your legacy to us, and we are truly blessed to be part of it.



**Ruby Cabral**  
St. Annes's, Camp, Pune





### My Spiritual Journey

#### My Spiritual Journey with the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary.

The journey of faith is a path marked by questions, renewal, and moments of deep awakening. For me, one of the most transformative chapters of this journey has been my involvement with the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary (AFJM) – a spiritual community inspired by the vision and charisma of St. Claudine Thevenet. What began as a simple curiosity about the Association gradually became a profound personal encounter with the love of Jesus and Mary, bringing with it a renewed sense of purpose and joy in my everyday life.

#### Discovering AFJM

My introduction to AFJM was not through any grand event, but through an invitation – gentle, almost ordinary – to join a small group. Yet, this simple beginning opened the door to a deeper spiritual experience that continues to shape my faith and daily living. That first invitation led me to a small gathering of members who prayed together, reflected on Scripture, and shared how faith guided their lives. From that very first meeting, I sensed a deep feeling of belonging – a sense of being part of a spiritual family bound by love, compassion, and service. Founded by St. Claudine Thevenet, AFJM embodies her profound desire to make Jesus and Mary known and loved. Her mission – to educate, nurture, and transform lives through love. This same spirit continues to flow through AFJM even today.

#### My Journey of Inner Transformation

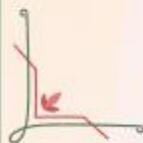
Being a part of AFJM has been far more than mere participation in meetings or activities- it has been a journey of the heart, a gradual unfolding of a God's presence in my everyday life. I began to understand that faith is not just something we profess-but, it is something we live. AFJM has united us not only in prayer, but also in a shared mission- to live the Gospel through education, outreach, compassion and the promotion of human dignity. Together we strive to become instruments of God's mercy and love in the world.

This journey, has taught me to embrace simplicity, patience and trust. I've learned that true transformation often happens in silence - in small acts of kindness, in forgiveness offered, in listening without judgement and in choosing hope when things seem uncertain. I began to see how faith could illuminate even the most ordinary aspects of life, turning daily moments into opportunities for grace and growth. AFJM has taught me that holiness is not reserved for saints – it is found in every act of kindness, in every effort to bring hope where there is despair. The community's emphasis on "seeing God in all things" has helped me approach life's challenges with new eyes – whether in my family, workplace, or relationships. What once seemed routine - now carries meaning, what once felt heavy - now holds grace. My relationship with God has grown from mere understanding to deep trust. A trust that allows me to surrender my plans to his will and find peace in his timing.

I have witnessed how the Association touches lives – supporting children's education, visiting the sick, and offering comfort to those in need. It is faith in action and love made visible. What moves me most is the spirit of simplicity and joy that permeates everything within AFJM. My experience with AFJM has deepened my faith and given it tangible direction. It has taught me to trust more deeply in God's plan and to find peace in surrender. Through AFJM, I am constantly reminded that transformation is not a single moment but a lifelong journey- a daily "YES" to love, to forgiveness, and to the mission of St. Claudine, "To see God in all things and to make Jesus and Mary known and loved."

As I continue my spiritual journey, I carry with me St. Claudine Thevenet's enduring message of forgiveness and hope. Her life reminds me that even in the face of pain, love can heal, even in silence, faith can speak and even in small acts, God's presence can shine brightly. The AFJM spirit lives on in my heart and this journey has become not just a part of my faith, but the very rhythm of my life – a constant call to live, love, and serve with joy.

- Rovena Johnson,  
FJM- Vasai





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### Hands of compassion: A Spiritual Journey with St.Claudine Thevenet's Charism

**\*1John 4 : 8\***

**\*\* whoever does not Love does not know God, because God is Love\*\*.**

Love in action was the idea inspired by mother foundress St. Claudine Thevenet. She saw Jesus in abandoned children, in empty bowls and in every face turned towards despair. Her small acts of compassion, kindness, love and serving the marginalized fueled into the Religious of Jesus- Mary Congregation.

**\* She lit a spark - it was fire\*.**

**\*Ephesians 4 : 3\***

**\*\*Be Kind, Compassionate, Forgiving as God forgave You\*.**

St.Claudine Thevenet's life was Faith-Filled and Bold. She experienced the journey from trauma to forgiveness when she witnessed the execution of her two brothers, who were guillotined in front of her. Her brother's final plea to her was "Forgive them, Gladly, as we Forgive". Forgiveness and Love became her Superpower.

We are all on a journey with different destinies and goals. As I reflect on my spiritual journey, I just remember questioning God, WHY ME ? especially when life situation brought me through rough patches and life learning lessons. A decade back Sr.Victoria Sansare had introduced me to the FJM members of Marol Unit. To be honest, it was extremely hard for me to keep up with attending the meetings and outreach programmes. I couldn't say no to Sr. Victoria Sansare the spiritual director then. This continued for few months till the turning point of my questioning God, WHY ME ? was answered through the Charism of St.Claudine's Love in Action, Faith- Filled and Bold.

I thought to myself, is it hard to love the one I hate or forgive the one who has hurt me ? The question of WHY ME ? Why can't I love and forgive ? was answered with the dying words of St. Claudine Thevenet, **"How Good God Is !."**

I changed the way of looking at my hurt and pain in the joys of life God has gifted me with - **How Good God Is !**

**All complaints and unforgiveness with the countless blessings and love in life - How Good God Is !**

**Every single day of my life, my family, friends and loved ones - How Good God Is !**

**Being a part of the AFJM - How Good God Is !**

**My heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Victoria Sansare RJM, All the Sister's of Jesus and Mary, members of AFJM Marol Unit for helping me grow in Compassion, Love and Kindness.**

**My spiritual journey with St.Claudine Thevenet's, Charism is a huge part of who I am today and has helped me to understand how Divine the Almighty Is !**

**Praise Be Jesus and Mary**



**Fiona Amin - Marol Unit.**





### Care for Creation



Psalm 24:1 says: The Earth and all that is in it belongs to the Lord.

We were the last of God's creation and we were given the greatest sacred responsibility to care for His creation - because He loved us and trusted us. Let us renew and strengthen that trust by once again being watchful and vigilant with the once upon a time - abundant wealth and resources we enjoyed.

We thus become God's disciples by our genuine care for his creation. Our personal and community lives should be lived in 'creation-friendly' ways by using energy efficiently, conserving resources and indeed by experiencing the joy and peace when we are in contact with the beauty of nature. Creation was not finished at the dawn of this Earth, but Creation continues, and we have a lot to do to make the world a better place - George Price.



Angel Fernandes  
St. Anne's, Fort



**AFJM Outreach at St. Anthony's Orphanage**



## PUNE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

### AFJM day - St. Anne's Unit symbol – Outreaches

Every act of kindness begins with the desire to make a difference; the St. Anne's AFJM unit has made it one of our missions to achieve this goal through our outreach programs. Our unit chose a mural of outreach programs as our symbol for the AFJM day held on 11th October 2025.

In every corner of society, there are hearts waiting to be touched and lives yearning for hope. Outreach is the bridge that connects those who can help with those who need it most. It is through these acts of care and service that we grow stronger as a community, spirits are lifted, and humanity shines brightest.

Each interaction, each gesture of care, rekindles a sense of worth and belonging. Through outreach, forgotten voices are heard again, and weary hearts are comforted. What begins as an act of service often becomes a journey of mutual growth – one that teaches patience, compassion, and gratitude.

One of the greatest strengths of outreach lies in its ability to unite people from all walks of life. It erases barriers of age, background, and circumstance. In its place, it builds a community rooted in understanding and shared purpose. Those who give learn to see the world with softer eyes, while those who receive discover that they are not alone in their struggles. This exchange of care and connection reminds us that we are at our core, one human family.

As we look to the future, the mission continues – to reach out, to uplift and to remind every person that they matter. The world changes each time we choose compassion over indifference, empathy over apathy and action over silence. Outreach is more than service; it is a testament to what we can achieve when love leads the way.



Rosalind Ramos  
St. Annes, Fort

### AFJM Day 2025 – A Spiritually Enriching Experience

The recent AFJM Day brought together 74 members from various groups for a well-organized, spiritually enriching, and interactive gathering. The event was marked by a prayerful and welcoming atmosphere, allowing participants to deepen their faith and strengthen community bonds.

The Pilgrim Walk – a symbol of the Jubilee Year – stood out as the spiritual highlight, described by attendees as touching, meaningful, and inspiring. Carefully planned sessions, quizzes, symbol-based activities, and reflection-sharing encouraged active participation. The Holy Eucharist and a relevant thought-provoking homily, was rendered by Rev. Kiran SDB. We were filled with joy to know 22 new members had made their commitments followed by the elder ones who reaffirmed theirs.

Music and fellowship added to the day's vibrancy. Nisha and her team led lively action songs, Jenny contributed with her mouth organ, and Angel & Alannah accompanied the choir on the keyboard and violin. The new AFJM anthem and attractive badges were also well received.

The success of the event was supported by excellent coordination and hospitality. Juellyn, Sr. Sylvia. M, Sr. Ida and her team, Pashan, Juliana and Carina were acknowledged and appreciated for their dedication and efforts in ensuring the day ran smoothly. The venue, schedule, food, creative ID's and group communication were also commended.

Participants suggested including icebreakers or additional action songs, allowing more group interaction time and also providing periods of silence or adoration. Adapting walking activities for larger or elderly groups, sharing PPTs, videos and feedback and exploring overnight events or scheduling on 2nd October were additional recommendations.

Overall, the AFJM Day was described as a joyful, spiritually fulfilling, and inspiring event. Attendees appreciated the meaningful experiences, vibrant fellowship, and the growing participation of members, reflecting the strength and vitality of the AFJM community.



Juellyn Lobo  
Pune Province Animator



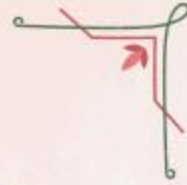


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Glimpses of AFIM day





The story that began over two thousand years ago, in a humble stable at Bethlehem, brought joy, hope, and love to the entire human race.

Jesus Christ, Our hope and salvation, lying in a lowly, dark, dingy manger, was real and brought us hope, that light could shine even in the darkest places. No fancy lightings, no fancy decorations and no proper grandeur.

The only advertisement, the band of angels singing "Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel" on that cold, silent and holy night.

Christ's birth expressing, God's love that transcends all boundaries and obstacles, penetrates through our very being today and everyday, shaking us and bringing us to the meaning of our existence, that goes beyond celebrations and pomp.

In that small manger heaven touched the earth in such a way, that it would inspire billions, for years to come to live with compassion, love, purpose and forgiveness.  
So let not this love stay only in our hearts and homes.

Let it flow across our neighborhood, workplaces, societies and country at large. Let this love touch the broken and wounded and hopeless and bring back that light that shone so bright, more than 2000 years ago expelling darkness and despair for all.

No wonder then that Christmas is one of the most beautiful times of the year, ringing the bells of Hope, Peace, forgiveness and True Joy that comes only from that first manger where the Lord of Lords and Kind of kings was born on that very First Christmas Night.



**Juliana Suresh Dsouza**  
AFJM member, ( Boat club road)





### Carol Singing And The Spirit of Christmas 🌲

The very mention of Christmas brings a smile on every face. Many images flash through the mind in a fraction of a second. The beautifully decorated Christmas tree with gifts placed next to it for every family member. The house is filled with cheer and laughter while making sweets. The colourful lights, stars and bells. Above all, going home to home in groups singing Christmas carols. Everyone soon learns all the carols by heart.

I remember going carol singing right from childhood. Neighbours would wait eagerly to hear us sing. We would have a few singers in the beginning, our numbers would increase with every house we sang at. Our pockets would be filled with different kinds of sweets. There would be good natured jokes and chatter. Santa would be a surprise for all kids.

Today with a fast paced lifestyle, little or no time, carol singing is at one place in a neighborhood. The purpose of carol singing seems achieved, but it's not so. Carol singing in front of every Christian home is fantastic evangelisation. The story of the birth of Jesus, bringing salvation to the world is proclaimed fearlessly.

The warm glow in our hearts increases when we sing at the homes of senior citizens, couples or individuals who are home bound. The spirit of Christmas is fulfilled.



**Stella Samuel, St. Joseph's, Pashan**





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### AFJM VASAI OUTREACH VISIT TO ASHA ANKUR BOYS ORPHANAGE ON 29TH NOV2025

- The Fifteen AFJM members of Vasai visited the Asha Ankur Boys Orphanage on 29th November 2025 run by Canossian Fathers, which is also known as Father Angelo Pasa Ashram (Jesus Touch Me Ministry).
- The Canossian Priest "Fr. Prakash" welcomed and showed us the place and introduced us to the Orphan Boys – there were 30 kids aged between 5 to 15 under his loving care.
- First, we gathered at the Refectory and had some delicious sandwiches and Wada-Pavs, along with the Kids and we too enjoyed the snacks. We then gathered at the Hall and had a small opening prayer before starting the activities.
- One of our AFJM Member - Shirley Simieon conducted an Action Song and we all danced to the tune, spreading lots of cheer and laughter amongst us.
- Riya and Sheetal then conducted some games for the Kids and they all participated whole heartedly and some of them won a few prizes too.
- We then had our concluding prayer and had a short meeting to prepare for the Christmas Carol Singing Visit for the homebound in our Parish and also allotted secret Advent friends amongst ourselves for whom we will pray during this Advent Season.
- We then bid Goodbye to all the Kids & Fr. Prakash and returned home – our hearts were brimming with joy – after sharing the Christmas Spirit with the Orphans.

SHIRLEY THETTAYIL - AFJM VASAI





# PUNE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN



Visit to the homebound.





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*Advent Talk by Fr. Anderson Fernandes.*



*Christmas Joy  
Spending time with Even tide inmates - Pune*





*Our Heartfelt Gratitude goes to  
Sr. Alejandra Diaz RJM & Mrs. Consuelo Mengual  
for their guidance and support for the past twelve years.  
For leading the AFJM with great love and commitment.  
God's blessings be upon both of you in your future endeavors.*



**THANK YOU!**

**Dear Sr. Monica Joseph RJM  
& Sr. Shanty George RJM**

**for your dedicated service to the AFJM.  
May Jesus and Mary bless you abundantly and be with  
you as you continue to be a blessing wherever you are!**

CONGRATULATIONS



**To our newly elected Superior General  
Sr. Ma Carmen Muñoz RJM and her Councillors -  
Srs. Selma D'Souza, Jennifer Burke, Encarna Viarnes  
and Lourdes Varguez.**

**Assuring you of our prayerful support as you take up  
your new responsibility.**

