

## Consoling Sisters ♦ Society of Servi Domini Orphanage ♦ India



*The Sisters welcomed Ruth of Trichy as postulant on 8th December 2011.*

Dear Benefactors,

We wish all our benefactors a holy and happy Christmas season and a blessed New Year filled with abundant graces. It has been a pleasant time in India – climate wise – these last few months. With the North East monsoon bringing rains in November and December, everything

around us is green and blooming. We can see new life everywhere, especially near our orphanage. We can see the peacocks dancing and many herons/egrets which migrate here during this season. Well, there are some unwelcome visitors also – SNAKES!!

One day in November a snake man-

aged to get into Sr. Maria Teresa's room. She went into her room after lunch to take some things for her art class – opened the cupboards, closed them and went to her table; then she noticed a slimy creature near the cupboard where she was standing just a few minutes before. Her heartbeat raced and she ran to the door and wanted to call me, but could not remember my name. All she could cry was "Periakka" which means "Big Sister" in Tamil (that is what our old lady Annamma calls me). But during this time she kept an eye on the snake to see where it was going. I immediately took a big stick and our cook, Rani (an expert snake killer) also came with another stick closely followed by one of our older girls, Santha, who also came carrying a stick. As we entered the room the snake found a small gap between the wall skirting and the cupboard and started to go inside. I tried to stop it but all I could get was its tail. Well, we have to get it out now. **How? Hmmm..!** Yes, "Girls get a small stick, we will poke at it." With a torch in one hand and a thin stick in the other, I started to poke at it. "Yes, it's coming



*Christmas 2011 at the Orphanage.*

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*The huge building project is half complete.*

out.” Oops, it went inside again, but its tail was still outside. “Come on let’s pull it out.” The girls were scared, “No sister, NO!” Well we have to get it out. So I wore the long gloves Theresa Montgomery had sent, and caught the tail and pulled it out. Rani, who was ready with her stick got it alright. It was only a baby snake – 2 feet long. A few weeks back our watchman, Gopal, killed a big 5 foot snake. He is not at all afraid of snakes. He cut it up before it was dead to extract some medicine from inside it!

Continuing on the subject of new life – Maria Catherine, the third grandchild of the orphanage was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November and baptized on 4<sup>th</sup> December. On 8<sup>th</sup> December, our pre postulant Ruth started her postulancy and on Christmas night



*Maria Agnes, baptised on Christmas Night.*



*Maids of Honour at the Corpus Christi procession earlier in the year.*

two of our girls – Divya (now Maria Anastasia) and Anusha (now Maria Agnes) and Anusha’s brother Arun (now Emmanuel) were baptised.

The construction of the new building has picked up some speed this last month. The walls are coming up now. Thanks to

all your support and prayers everything is going on well. May the Infant Jesus bless you all.

In Jesus and Mary,  
Sr. Maria Immaculata.



*Fr. François Laisney, spent another three months in the mission. He hardly stopped for a moment. Here he is giving an impromptu singing lesson to the Ladies’ Schola after Sunday Mass.*