

Venerable Nano's Legacy Unfolds in Srinagar

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The rays of Venerable Nano's lantern reached the valley of Srinagar in 1936 when the four valiant women Mother Peter Conway, Sr Sacred Heart, Sr Annuncita and Sr Xavier ventured from Rawalpindi at the request of Maharaja Hari Singh. They stayed at Boulevard in a rented



house while the convent and the school were being constructed at Rajbagh on the banks of the river Jhelum.

With Presentation presence, Rajbagh became the hub of commercial activities, the Dal Lake over the other side, attracted tourists from all over the world. Eighty-four years on, there has been an unwavering dedicated, committed service

rendered by the Sisters to the cause of education in the valley. The institution caters to 2,500 students not counting the teaching and the non-teaching fraternity. It imparts inclusive education based on the values of Nano Nagle and Jesus, moulding young minds into compassionate global citizens, resourceful for oneself and to the society at large. With virtue and labour engraved on the heart of every student that has passed out, individuals have volumes to narrate of the love and care showered by those Sisters who have served in this mission.

The mission withstood the devastating fire test in 1965, then the test of blood and violence in 1989 and thirdly the catastrophic flood in 2014. Nothing would deter the zeal and determination of these daring daughters of Nano, whose hearts are ablaze with the 'Love for service' and centred on 'The Almighty who is all sufficient'. Challenges make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. Difficulties



in life take one closer to God and leads to a beautiful destination. It makes one feel the tangible presence of God, who shelters us in all adversities. Life in Kashmir Valley, torn by militancy and violence, cut off from the rest with curfews, stone pelting, uncertainties and misery all around could be most depressing. Yet it is remarkably impressing that the spirit of Venerable Nano of the yore years is kept alive by Srs Molly Joseph, Nano Augustine,

Rosamma Karivelil and Regi Joseph. It is edifying to see these valiant women spending hours before the Blessed Sacrament, not only drawing strength and inspiration, but radiating

healing vibrations to the Valley traumatised with unrest and anxiety. All said and done, the practice of long hours of prayer and trust in the Divine Providence who does everything for the best, gives strength and purpose to life and this is the path of Presentation Spirituality. They are seen walking the highway of trust in the Lord, rather than taking the by lanes of an easy life.

Ripples of their communion



spirituality gently flow in to the campus, filling every corner with fertility. The stately chinar and the oak tree at the entrance manifest the eminence of the place. Apart from a variety of mind-blowing colourful flowers in the garden, the farm land is rich with juicy apples, pears, peaches, plums, walnuts and all sorts of vegetables. The chickens and rabbits spread joy around assuring all will be well again. And amidst it all the playful little Nandu and Luxmi bleat and blear calling Mudusor for their next feed. The antique, impressive tower clock that has withstood all the joys and the pain to narrate the history of the Valley, keeps chiming every half hour reminding all who hear it of the impermanence of life and of the flitting time to live in peace. The range of mountains touching the sky spreads tranquillity reminding us of the Creator who is beyond all national boundaries and religion. May Venerable Nano intercede for peace in Kashmir.

