

# KARUNALAYA Christmas Tidings

# 2016

Dear Friends Of Karunalaya,

Christmas bells are chiming and the time to catch up is around the corner. Karunalaya Family is grateful to you for your loving association in carrying forth its mission of mercy and love to the destitute of the society. It has been momentous year in many ways and we have strived to carry forward the great mission left behind by Fr. Marian, true to his vision of **'Putting the last first'**

First of all there was change of guard at Karunalaya in the beginning of June, 2016. I was in a small parish engaged in the grass root level animation & faith formation work for most of my priestly life of 31 years. Call to join Karunalaya was like from 'out of blue'. I am aware that Fr. Marian's shoes are too big for anyone to step in. However, trusting to his intercession, Fr. Ashley Fernandez (Treasurer) and me moved into Karunalaya on 6th June, 2016 and are slowly learning to carry forward the great legacy left behind by 'FATHER' at Karunalaya Leprosy Care Center, through its multifarious ministries.

Fr. Joseph having completed 5 yrs of service, moved on to a new place to take up pastoral ministry. He did an amazing job here in giving a big facelift to the place with renovation of hospital, setting up of a new shelter home for night stay for the homeless persons and in providing beds to the most needy in the colony. The school new building of Fr. Marian Memorial High School is a testimony for his foresight and efficiency.

## Glimpse of Our Ministries



## Our Recent Works

*There are a number of beggars who sleep on the road side and in the open at the Loknath temple in the vicinity of Karunalaya Leprosy Colony, exposing themselves to various dangers and diseases. The old dispensary was renovated and furnished from a big donation from Dr. Cornelia Mellabrein, Germany as a night shelter for them. It offers them a clean place and a warm bed to rest for the night. The well furnished 'Father Marian Shelter Home' is a homely and welcoming place for the people on the margin.*

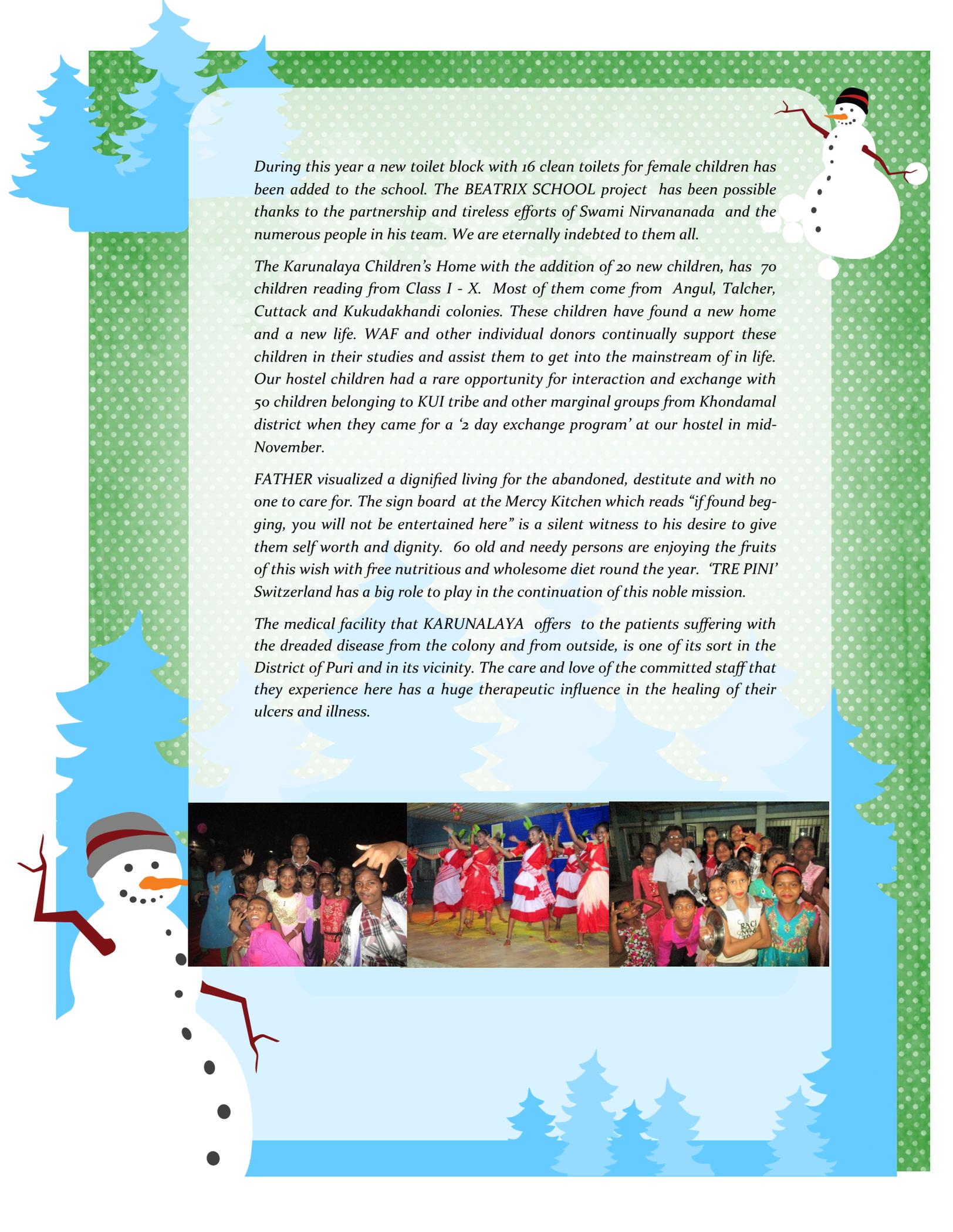
*Father Marian had visualized and worked for giving all the victims of the dreaded disease a decent house to live in with their family. He purchased a plot of land and provided houses for 70 families of lepers, in a colony named "place of Resurrection". Over the years, the poor condition of the houses necessitated urgent reconstruction. In the first phase of the project 16 houses were reconstructed. The families have moved in and enjoy the comforts of the clean and neat new houses.*

*In the second phase 9 houses are under construction. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> phase 23 more houses are in need of urgent reconstruction. The houses are in very bad shape with leaking roofs causing dampness and leading to a number of health ailments among the patients. These houses need fresh funding for the reconstruction. Each house costs Rs.400,000=00(@Euro 5750). We look forward to your kind assistance in fulfilling the dream of Father Marian of providing a decent and dignified living space to the inmates.*



*The ambitious dream child of FATHER, the BEATRIX SCHOOL offering that 'special place denied to the children from the margins' is making steady progress. The pass percentage of the last matriculation examination was 85%. This year we had to refuse admission to many as we could not accommodate any more. The class rooms are full to the brim and the school is bustling with activities, fun and laughter of the children. The children of our school excelled in dance, debate and other competitions at the annual inter SVD Schools meet conducted at St. Lawrence School, Tentoloi, Angul in the month November.*





*During this year a new toilet block with 16 clean toilets for female children has been added to the school. The BEATRIX SCHOOL project has been possible thanks to the partnership and tireless efforts of Swami Nirvananada and the numerous people in his team. We are eternally indebted to them all.*

*The Karunalaya Children's Home with the addition of 20 new children, has 70 children reading from Class I - X. Most of them come from Angul, Talcher, Cuttack and Kukudakhandi colonies. These children have found a new home and a new life. WAF and other individual donors continually support these children in their studies and assist them to get into the mainstream of in life. Our hostel children had a rare opportunity for interaction and exchange with 50 children belonging to KUI tribe and other marginal groups from Khondamal district when they came for a '2 day exchange program' at our hostel in mid-November.*

*FATHER visualized a dignified living for the abandoned, destitute and with no one to care for. The sign board at the Mercy Kitchen which reads "if found begging, you will not be entertained here" is a silent witness to his desire to give them self worth and dignity. 60 old and needy persons are enjoying the fruits of this wish with free nutritious and wholesome diet round the year. 'TRE PINI' Switzerland has a big role to play in the continuation of this noble mission.*

*The medical facility that KARUNALAYA offers to the patients suffering with the dreaded disease from the colony and from outside, is one of its sort in the District of Puri and in its vicinity. The care and love of the committed staff that they experience here has a huge therapeutic influence in the healing of their ulcers and illness.*



*'ISHOPANTHI ASHRAM – Center of Spirituality and Prayer' continues to share its serenity and warmth to the participants of the programs and to persons seeking solitude during the year. It offers us that inner strength and energy to carry forward the MISSION OF MERCY & LOVE.*

*Christmas story tells us that Jesus came into the world to share the compassion and mercy of God with humanity. Conscious effort is made to live that mercy and love of God in action, in sharing concern for the well being of the inmates of the colony, in attending to the sick and invalid, in nursing their wounds and in assisting the children to grow in wisdom and knowledge under the different portals of KARUNALAYA. This MISSION OF MERCY is impossible to imagine without your role and participation. And as we bend our knees in adoration at the Crib, wellsprings of gratitude spring forth from our hearts singing a song of thanksgiving to **the ALMIGHTY &** to you. Be assured of our special thoughts and prayers for you and for your dear ones at CHRISTMAS. May the Infant Child Jesus and his most Blessed Mother grant you the joy and peace of this holy season and keep you and your loved ones safe. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas.*

*Yours in Lord Jesus,*

*Fr Baptist D'Souza ,SVD*

