
Orphanage



Mary Rose and Theresa wrapped in melodic concentration.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

On the 28th February Sr. Maria Rita of the Consoling Sisters, Miss Luisella, an auxiliary of the Consoling Sisters, and Miss Katherina Stoltz, a jolly helpful friend of the Consoling Sisters, arrived at the orphanage for a five week stay.

Their hard work, kindness and devotion were not the only things they brought with them; they brought a bundle of recorders too. Misses Katherina and Luisella gave lessons for three evenings a week to both the boys and the girls and helped with singing lessons.

With Sr. Maria Rita they raised the choir to celestial heights of beauty during the Sacred Triduum. On one Sunday, Mass was sung at the village of Singamparai perhaps for the first time. What must the locals have thought as they heard the angelic voices broadcast across the village by loudspeaker?

The knowledge and love of music is an important element of a child's education. In medieval times it was the fourth element of the *quadrivium* which completed an education in the liberal arts at university before the study of philosophy.

In an age where education has been reduced to the level of job training, we are blessed to hear the sound of music in our classrooms.



Miss Katherina Stoltz asks Joseph if he can play the same note twice.



Father Paul Kimball, the prior of Singapore, revealed some hitherto unsuspected talents at the farewell dinner for Sr. Maria Rita and companions. He even showed us his juggling skills, but when pressed to dance a jig, he modestly declined.

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Sr. Maria Rita is surrounded by the children of Singamparai after Sunday Mass.

During the holidays the staff at the orphanage face the same problem as every family throughout the world: how do we keep the children out of trouble? The easiest thing in the short term would be to lock them up, but this is generally counterproductive in the long term. We could show them films (movies) all day or intro-

duce them to computer games, but this would turn them into vegetables. In the end we must do what all good parents do: we must teach the children how to work and how to play. This is a very time consuming business and requires the patient and loving attention. The sisters and volunteers give this in abundance. Ω



Miss Rose Bourbeau of Minnesota with a street urchin who lives in a palm leaf hut on the side of a busy road. Passing the hut each day, Misses Bourbeau and Fortin could not resist buying the children some toys.



Miss Marie-Claire Fortin and Miss Josefina Pushpa became elegant twins for Easter.



Miss Luisella and Margaret Mary after Sunday Vespers. Being near to the equator, sunset is at about 6:30pm throughout the year.



Sr. Maria Rita helps with the cleaning of the chapel before the Easter Vigil.