Jamshedpur: Mercy Hospital, a landmark in Jamshedpur’s medical fraternity is celebrating fifty years of its existence and service to the sick. It was in June 1962 in two “Long-Toms” tin sheds, donated by the American Kaiser Company, then working for the expansion of Tata Steel, to the Mercy Sisters of Philadelphia, USA to start a much and dire felt community need—medical service in the eastern part of the steel city of Jamshedpur.

Actually, the story of “Mercy Medical Mission” began in the year 1953, when the late Mr. J.R.D. Tata envisioned the need of a medical specialty centre to take care of patients suffering from TB, then a dreaded disease. Mr. Tata especially invited the Mercy Sisters from Philadelphia, U.S.A to take charge of the nursing and management of the newly built “Sir Ardeshir Dalal Memorial TB Hospital” at Baridih, Jamshedpur. Nestled in the lush thick green forest of tall sal trees, far away from habitation and a dusty mud road was the only approach to the TB centre. Mr. Tata soon realized the great general medical need and once again he approached the Mercy Sister’s Congregation to start a general medical aid centre. So in June 1962, Mercy Hospital commenced its humble beginning in the two tin sheds with a small OPD clinic. Soon, the Tata allotted 10 acres of land adjacent to the TB hospital on a long term lease to build a general hospital to cater specifically to the poor and the marginalized society that resided nearby. In 1969, with the generous aid from USAID, a new hospital building was built. This was furnished and equipped by the Mercy Sisters. An in-patient ward, a small laboratory and the much needed Operation Theatre were added much to the joy of the growing number of patients.
Every silver lining cloud has a dark periphery as a potential threat. So also, the acts of mercy rendered to the thousands of patient could no longer be tenable due to government laws. In 1973, the visas of the American Mercy Sisters who were foreign missionaries would not be extended further by the Indian Government and the Mercy Sisters did not have Indian Sisters to take over their medical work. So they began to search for an Indian congregation that was engaged in medical service mission and they found the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary (SCJM), who were having the same mission and vision, willing to take and carry on the benevolent medical. The handing over of the management of the medical services took place on 24th August, 1976.

Sr. Nirmala SCJM (Administrator) and her team, late Rev. Sister Stella P Mathew, SCJM, Administrator and her dedicated and committed medical team nurtured the Mercy Hospital, then having 100 beds, and added many new facilities over the years. The number of out patients and indoor patients began to grow. From nearby and distance places patients began to flock to the Mercy Hospital to get the much needed medical treatment. The devoted team of qualified Doctors, dedicated and well trained Nurses, Para-Medical staff and of course the zeal to reach out and take utmost care of the sick by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary worked many miracles among the sick patients. In fact, the hallmark of the success lay not only in the medicines and treatment but in the smile, kind words and personal touch to the patients by the entire medical staff of the Mercy Hospital. It was due to this humane approach that patients and their family flocked regularly for treatment and at the same time recommending and bringing in their family and friends for good medical care and treatment.

During these fifty golden years Mercy Hospital has grown. Over the years the hospital has added more beds; today it has 250 beds and well established departments of General Medicines, General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, intensive care unit, pharmacy, OPD facilities and a 24 hours emergency service for medical care and treatment. Mercy Hospital is well known for its maternity services - coupled with pre-natal and anti-natal care for the mother and the new born child.

If figures spoke then much need not be said about Mercy Hospital and its services, which is growing at a fast space. Over the past eleven years from 2000 to 2011 the in-patient figures increased from 9462 to 17688, Out-patients from 39345 to 55967 and maternity (new born) cases from 2061 to 4194.

Every Missionary Apostolate has a vision and a mission by stating its objectives, so also the Congregation of Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary at Mercy Hospital. The congregation has over
the golden years achieved to perform works of charity, social, corporal and spiritual. By training of Ancillary Medical Personnel it perfected the art of caring for the sick patients.

The hospital administration encourages its doctors and medical staff to undertake Medical Research and participate as well as present papers in medical seminars and symposiums. Lastly, the hospital works untiringly to diffuse Social, Religious, Secular and Scientific knowledge in the State of Jharkhand.

Over the fifty golden years the Almighty God has blessed Mercy Hospital and, with the kind help of generous benefactors, well-wishers and friends, Mercy Hospital has not only served the poor and the marginalized but also organized medical health camps beyond the boundaries to cater to the health / medical needs of the people living in interior villages of East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela – Kharsawan districts of Jharkhand where medical facilities are non-existing or very far away.

A successful institution does not bask in the glory of its achievements or laurels but strives to further reach out to the needy and marginalized. So also, Mercy Hospital has drawn up blue prints to surge ahead in the medical arena. Under the present leadership of the hospital Administrator - Rev. Sister Jessy Joseph, SCJM, the management of Mercy Hospital in a fitting tribute to the community it has so caringly served has embarked on building a state of the art Nursing School and Hostel in the hospital premises. Yet, another feather in its cap! The Mercy Hospital management through this project would like to reach out in service to women - especially tribal women empowerment. In fact this is the pressing need of the day. Not only empowerment of women but also try and bridge the huge gap of demand and supply of well trained and qualified Registered Nurses and Midwife and Nursing Assistants. The objective of the nursing school will specially encourage poor and dedicated women who want to serve sick but do not have the means to achieve it. In this noble endeavor, Tata Steel management has pledged a grant of rupees five cores towards this project.

Mercy hospital over the past fifty years has taken extremely good care of the sick and needy patients referred by the numerous parishes of Jamshedpur Diocese. Poverty being the scourge of the majority of the critically sick patients, who cannot afford the minimum medical needs, they are usually referred to Mercy Hospital to receive the best medical treatment, care and medicines free of cost. Truly, the congregation of Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary has been twice blessed by the Almighty God for their dedicated service of the sick patients.