

Making “Green Gold” from Stones



Across the world, the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame carries a quiet yet powerful message: where faith, dedication, and perseverance meet, life flourishes. A beautiful example of this spirit can be seen in Tisri—once a silent and barren land, now transformed into a living garden of hope.

Through the daily dedication and perseverance of the Sisters, the once-hard, reluctant ground has gradually been transformed into a fertile, flourishing garden. What once seemed lifeless now bears fruit—both literally and spiritually.

Water, a precious and limited resource in this region, is carefully treasured. Through rainwater harvesting and the wise use of natural water sources, the community sustains its gardens and daily needs. The scarcity of water has never discouraged the Sisters or the students who share in this mission. Instead, it has inspired them to live more creatively and responsibly, in harmony with nature.

This transformation beautifully reflects the inspiring words of Sister Maria Aloysia Wolbring: “Make gold out of stones.” In Tisri, that phrase takes on a new and vibrant meaning. The gold being created is not the metal that glitters in markets, but something far more life-giving— **“green gold.”**

Within the convent grounds, life abounds. Vegetable gardens flourish through patient care. Chickens, ducks, and rabbits add vitality to the surroundings, while birds fill the air with their songs. Nature itself seems to participate in the serenity of this place, where the rhythms of the earth and prayer flow together.

For many Sisters, life in Bayangdih has opened doors to new experiences and learning. Working with the soil, planting, and caring for creation becomes both a responsibility and a blessing. Even those who arrived after the planting season share in the joy of harvesting tapioca, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, groundnuts, ginger, turmeric, strawberries, and other crops—fruits of the dedicated labour of the Sisters.

Touching the soil each day becomes a prayer in action. Caring for the earth and nurturing plants turns ordinary work into a sacred act of gratitude to God.

The story of Tisri and Bayangdih in Jharkhand reminds us that nothing is too barren to be transformed by faith-filled dedication. When we place our hands in the soil of God’s creation and our hearts in His providence, even stones can become gold—and deserts can bloom.