

# GONPA GAZETTE



*Newbie school monks still 'honeymooning'.*

Pride, one of the five *poisons* (mind states that cause suffering) is supposedly the most difficult to let go of. The last 12 years I worked, I was self-employed as an in-home family therapist and parent mentor. The feedback I received from agencies and parents I worked with, was I was pretty darn good. I'd even be so proud as to agree!

Many parents asked, "Why do my children listen to you and not to me?" Simple answer, "I am not their parent and I don't live with them."

I'm not the bio, adoptive or foster mom to any of the monks, I don't eat in the dining hall/sleep in the dorms; but we all live in community, which significantly decreases my authority!

I am SO much less effective as a parental figure here then when I saw kids in their homes only an hour each week!

It could also be because I am asked to teach them exactly what they don't want to learn (hygiene)/care about (dog care), that they are not used to being held accountable, and we don't speak the same language or have the same customs...or maybe I'm just not that great!

I repeatedly suck it up, lower my expectations, let go of the outcome...and admit I still have a lot to learn. How fortunate for non-stop lessons in humility!



*'Old' school monks who have grown up with me at the monastery.*

# MARCH 2017 IN PHOTOS



