



XXV/1

June 2017

Dear sisters,

My loving personal greetings to each one of you, as I take charge of animating our Province of Bangalore dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as its fifth Provincial. This is my first communication to you all, and I hope this will be the beginning of a long journey together, where the Lord walks alongside each one of us.

A MILLION THANKS

“What thanks O Lord can we render Thee for all the gifts thou hast showered on us?” We make the sentiments of the Psalmist our own, as we look back to the past six years of the life of our Province. The Lord has done marvels through our dear Sr.Crescentia and her Councillors. At this juncture, I would like to thank Sr.Crescentia for her dedicated and generous services. Thousands of miles you have journeyed, countless sacrifices you have made, valued each person, spared time for everyone. Your humility, simplicity, availability and gentleness have been the rich attributes that endeared you to all of us. Dear Sr.Crescentia, we, the Sisters of the Province of Bangalore thank you for your vibrant leadership and ask the Lord to bless and reward you abundantly.

THE SILVER YEAR OF THE PROVINCE

Our Province young and vibrant, and full of vitality, now has entered into the 25th year of its existence. It is unique in many ways: with mountains, and valleys, vastness of distances to be traversed, diversity of cultural combinations and languages, ethnic identities, and with many aspirations and demands. As we have stepped into the Silver Jubilee Year of the Province on 31st May 2017, it's good to go back to the beginnings of our Province to see how we were able to arrive at the vision we had proposed for the Province on 31-05-1993. Can we hear the echoes of the slogan ‘to do any work, anywhere?’ Let the jubilee year help us to Recall, Rejoice and Renew and be committed to the Charism and to take to new heights all the apostolate in our Province on behalf of the marginalized and the young at risk.

I feel confident at this moment to say that the Holy Spirit has always inspired those at the helm to do their best in these 24 years of its pilgrimage. The credit for what has been achieved in the past

24years goes to the Leaders of our Province and to every FMA whose tireless efforts, hard work and sacrifices have enabled us to reach the present stage. I wish and pray that the Good Lord may bring to perfection what He has begun and make it a model Province in the Institute.

OUR PROVINCE VISION

At the start of this New Year, as I take up my new responsibility, I invite each one of you to join me in accepting the challenges and opportunities of change for the better.

We, the FMA of Sacred Heart Province Bangalore, envisage to be, Christ Centred communities, deeply rooted in faith and prayer, co-responsible for the common mission, net working with the local Church and other likeminded organizations; a community where every sister feels loved, accepted and appreciated, and manifests a deep sense of belonging and lives the charism of preventive love, enabling the young to become persons of communion, compassion, commitment and competence in the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello.

Having our vision very clear before us, we embark on our mission of making this vision a living reality for the young to whom we have committed our lives. In this journey let us make our common prayer to the Lord: “Lord, grant me the courage to change the things I can, the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference”

EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROVINCE

After a short discussion with the Animators of Communities on the 31st May, the Provincial Council has formulated the following objectives for the coming six years.

Passion for Christ and Compassion for Humanity: By raising the quality of our life through:

- *Ardent spirit of faith and prayer(Personal)*
- *Genuine respect and care for one another(Community)*
- *Dedicated and generous commitment (Mission)*

Let us make this, part of our prayer, reflection and life.

CELEBRATIONS -----

HEART OF JESUS, SYMBOL OF LOVE

“Take my yoke up on you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest to your souls”. - Mt.11: 29

The month of June is dedicated to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus by Holy Mother the Church. The Church governed and taught by the Holy Spirit, has approved and recommended devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In our age of religious indifference, when fervour and charity have grown cold, Jesus exposes to the world, His Sacred Heart as the symbol of God's infinite love – the symbol of His own generous self sacrificing love for human beings. Jesus shows His Divine Heart as a furnace whose burning rays of love are able to reanimate faith and rekindle love in hearts grown cold and ungrateful.

But why His *heart*? Because in every language, in every age, 'heart' is regarded as the natural symbol of love and affection. The direct and material object of devotion to the Sacred Heart is the real, physical Heart of Jesus- the Heart of flesh, the living and loving Heart of our Blessed Lord; the Heart that beat in His Divine bosom at the moment of incarnation; the Heart that loved us during His life on earth, that poured forth its blood to the last drop on Mount Calvary; the beatified Heart now glorious in heaven and still dwelling among us in the Blessed Sacrament; the Heart ever united to the person of the Divine Word, to whom is due, supreme homage and adoration.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus make our hearts like His own and enable us all to acquire the qualities of His Heart which will bring about personal and community transformation. Let us entrust to Him our Province and our communities, named after His sacred Heart.

I am very grateful to Sr.Margaret Mathai for preparing the Novena practices to help us to prepare ourselves better for the feast of the Sacred Heart.

CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

This year the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has a special significance as it is the Centenary of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. What is the real meaning of "My Immaculate Heart will triumph" a motto of the so-called "Secret of Fatima"? "In a theological commentary, Cardinal Ratzinger and future Pope Benedict XVI explained it:" A heart opened to God, purified by the contemplation of God, is stronger than pistols or other weapons of any kind." Conversion, penance, prayer, a life oriented towards sacrifice, with a restorative and redemptive meaning are themes specific to Christianity, and all of them are present in Fatima.

With thirty three days of spiritual preparation as a Province, let us consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a fitting preparation to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Province. May Our Lady of Fatima enable us to contemplate the face of Jesus and let ourselves be configured by Him through the contemplation of the mysteries of the Rosary.

TRIENNIAL EVALUATION

The Triennial Evaluation is a significant experience to review the impact of the great mandate given by the GCXXIII, 'Broaden your vision! with the young, missionaries of Hope and Joy', in the life of each one and in the community. We are exhorted by our Mother General in the Circular 967: "As three years are over since the celebration of GCXXIII, we are called to pause personally, as local Community, Province and at Inter provincial level to reflect on the journey made, and project towards the future with renewed missionary zeal. Hence I invite each one of you to intensify your

study and reflection on the Chapter theme and to verify the three choices of pastoral conversion. More guide lines will be given to the communities.

COMMUNICATIONS

ERECTION OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF TRICHY

Congratulations to the Province of Chennai which has given birth to the seventh FMA Province as the Province of Trichy (INT) with its Patroness 'Our Lady of Snow' and its Provincial house at Manikandam, Trichy.

On 10th June 2017, with great joy and jubilation, in the presence of many Priests, Sisters and lay people our beloved Mother General Rev. Sr. Yvonne Reungoat canonically erected the new Province of Trichy and appointed Sr. Margaret Amalanathan as its first Provincial. I had the joy of witnessing this historic event, congratulate the Provincial and pray for the new Province and its Mission, so that the Salesian Charism may bear abundant fruit in the years to come.

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Sr. Maria Nirmala Lazar, the new Provincial of INM who was installed on 12th June.

Loving and prayerful wishes from our beloved Mother General Rev. Sr. Yvonne Reungoat.

CONGRATULATIONS

With great joy we thank God and congratulate all our schools for their wonderful performance both in the X^{and} XII examinations. We acknowledge and appreciate the hard work put in to help the students specially the poorer ones to achieve success. We pray that all the Communities specially the Principals and Teachers may be abundantly blessed and rewarded by the Good Lord.

WELCOME BACK

We happily welcome Sr. Maria Selvam Celine and Sr. Boyopati Jayanthi who have returned to the Province after having completed the course of the formators. We wish them a fruitful mission.

NDF WORKSHOP

Sr. Rosy Lopez, Sr. Alice Philip and Sr. Sumi Joseph will be participating in the workshop for the preparation of FMA – INDIA SOCIAL POLICY to be conducted at Yercaud from June 29 –July 1st 2017.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM MEMBERS

As informed, on 30th June there will be the Team Meeting and planning for the year. Let's exercise our creative fidelity for the good of all who are entrusted to us. The meeting will be from 9a.m to 4 p.m.

As I conclude with the words of Our Mother and Co-Founder St. Mary Mazzarello, I would like to make them my own.

“Never forget to pray for me who love you very dearly in the Lord. May God bless you and make you holy quickly”.(Letter 61.5)

May Mary Help of Christians be our constant help and guide along our way; May she be the one to direct our steps to live our Consecration and Mission to the full.

Wish you all a very Happy feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus !

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Celine Jacob".

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial