



Provincial Circular - INK

*Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Bangalore*



XXV/11

April 2018

My dearest Sisters,

May you experience all the blessings of the Easter season!

"To a Christian, Easter Sunday means everything, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ"

I would like to reflect with you a little about the mystery of Easter as it is the most important celebration of the liturgical year. Why are eggs associated with Easter? Why are they such a powerful symbol of resurrection? Resurrection is transformation. The symbols of resurrection are many. So then, why eggs and Easter? An egg is totally changed. What is yellow and white liquid becomes alive with feathers and a chirp. If you look at the liquid of eggs alone, you would never tell what they would become. A liquid becomes a chicken – a sea gull or a crow. Another Easter symbol is the seed. You can look at a seed and never imagine what colour it may turn out to have. Similarly with a caterpillar and butterfly. These are resurrection symbols because they become something else, totally unforeseen and beautiful. And yet there is continuity: the egg becomes a chicken; a seed becomes an oak-tree; a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

There are also human resurrection symbols: persons recovering from drug addiction or alcoholism become what they have despaired of happening. They are the same persons, but now transformed; they have new life, new hopes, and new possibilities. Another resurrection symbol might be a teenager becoming an adult: he or she is the same, but different with the new beauties of maturity.

The resurrection is an invitation to look around to see transformation, to see what is evil being changed, what is immature becoming adult; what appears inactive like an egg or seed sprouting life.

But for the Christian the resurrection has a still richer meaning. St. Paul, clearly repeating a catechetical formula that he had learned, says to the Corinthians: **I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures** (1Corinthians 15:3-4).

Christ is risen, and has promised to take us with him. This life is not the end; we too will be transformed in to endless life and beauty. Human life is good, but it will end. The resurrection

gives hope and meaning to our existence here. In our weakness after death we will be raised in glory. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). May the celebration of the Easter mysteries be an encounter with Jesus for a total transformation.

-----CELEBRATIONS-----

A BOUQUET OF GRATITUDE TO OUR BELOVED MOTHER

The entire FMA world is turned towards Asunción, the Province of St. Raphael Archangel, Paraguay (PAR). Let there be a continuous flow of love, gratitude and prayer for our beloved Mother General as we are preparing for the World Feast of Gratitude on April 26, 2018. As we intensely live the proposed theme, may our gratitude be turned to ceaseless prayer for our beloved Mother General **Mother Yvonne Reungoat**, and celebrate it meaningfully in our communities.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The universal Church will celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter which falls on 8th April this year. Devotion to the Divine Mercy, focuses on Christ's limitless mercy and love for mankind. It is a relatively new devotion. Divine Mercy is hope wrapped up in a loving God, ever ready to embrace us and forgive even our gravest sins. As we meditate in gratitude for God's gracious mercy shown to us, we should look honestly at the mercy that we show to others. Our God is a God of mercy. Are we persons of mercy?

-----COMMUNICATION-----

CONGRATULATIONS

- To dear **Sr. Elizabeth George**, the 12th Provincial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of Shillong (INS), and **Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal**, the 4th Provincial of the Mater Ecclesiae Province of Guwahati (ING), who have been nominated by Mother General to lead the FMA provinces of the North East India for the next six years. May the Lord bless them with the gift of discernment and wisdom to lead the provinces to greater heights. Our prayers are with you dear sisters.
- To **Most Reverend Peter Machado** (Bishop of Belgaum) on his appointment as the Archbishop of Bangalore; May the Lord guide and accompany him so as to guide the flock entrusted to him after the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd.
- We also express our sentiments of gratitude to **Most Reverend Bernard Moras**, Archbishop of Bangalore who has been shepherding the Archdiocese of Bangalore with great love, pastoral care, courage and dynamism. May the good Lord bless and reward him for his generous services.
- I will be participating in the CRI National Assembly of Major Superiors which will be held from May 27-30, 2018 at SRM University, Chennai. The themes discussed will be

(1) Urgent matters facing us today (2) Moving to the peripheries: Learning from those who have done it.

- Sr. Jose Mary Dunna Radhika and Sr. Praveena Madhavan will attend the II Phase of the II Novitiate at Nirmal Jyothi, Bangalore from 15th April to 15th May. We accompany our dear sisters with our prayers as they intensely prepare themselves for their final commitment. Sr. Rosy Malayatty will be the facilitator.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ❖ Sr. Mary Joseph , Sr. Anice Joseph and Sr. Gracy Mathai will be participating in a course on inner healing and Psycho Spiritual integration from 16-21st April in DHYANA SADHANA, MYSURU.
- ❖ Sr. Anna Joseph E. and Sr. Jamuna Varkey will be participating in a course at SAMAGRADHA SADHANA, LONAVLA from 21st April to 29th May.
- ❖ Sr. Valsa George and Sr. Sheeja Jose will be attending a course At DBRC, BENGALURU from 9th to 22 May.
- ❖ Sr. Maria Rajeswari and Sr. Rosely Devassy will be attending a course at Viswadeep, BENGALURU on Psycho Emotional healing from 14- 19th May.
- ❖ Sr. Deepa George and Sr. Arokia Mary Anthony will be participating in a course on topics related to EDUCATION apostolate from 21- 26 May at DHYANA SADHANA, MYSURU.

CONCLUSION OF SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION&TEAM MEETING

The yearlong Silver Jubilee celebrations will be coming to a close on 31st May 2018. Once again during the thanksgiving Eucharist we will express our sentiments of gratitude to God for his copious blessings on behalf of our province. Let us all be present in spirit as all the communities will be represented by some one or the other. Jubilee is a time to look backward as well as to look forward, hence let us now focus on the coming 25 years with lot of hope, courage and enthusiasm, being ready to face the opportunities and challenges ahead as we march towards the golden years! As informed earlier there will be the meeting of the Team members on 30th May 2018 during which some proposals could be finalized based on the points received from the communities.

AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS

Our Prayerful wishes to Sr. Saly Abraham and all the local Economers as they get ready for the annual auditing of accounts. On 6th& 7th April the sisters (Local Economers) of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana will meet at Auxilium Guntur while on the 13th – 14th the Sisters of Kerala will meet for the same at Auxilium Palluruthy. For the Economers of Karnataka Houses it will be at the Provincial House on 7th May. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the three communities of Guntur and Palluruthy and the Provincial House for their hospitality and generous availability.

VOCATION CAMPS

I thank you sincerely for the efforts you have put in as individuals and communities during this academic year to promote vocations. Sr. Shiny Jose has made lot of efforts to coordinate the vocation pastoral through the regional coordinators. Sr. Mary Karuvelil the vocation promoter has worked hard to contact many girls during the year. So we will have a camp for these girls from 10th to 20th April in each region.

Karnataka - April 15th to 18th at Auxilium Welfare Centre, Bangalore

Andhra & Telangana - April 13-14 at Maria Nivas, Nandigama

Kerala - April 16- 20 at Auxilium Palluruthy

Let us keep them in our prayers so that they may be inspired to make the right choice and respond to God's call generously.

THANKYOU

A sincere thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and Community for hosting the 3rd Annual retreat from 2nd to 9th April at the Provincial House.

ANNUAL RETREAT& ANIMATION FOR JUNIORS

The junior sisters are expected to be in the provincial house for the renewal programme on 9th May. The session will begin at 9.30 a.m. This will be followed by the annual retreat and renewal of the vows. They can return back by 24th evening.

CONCLUSION

What is the essential message that we can gain out of the Easter mystery? We should be a community of transformation- transformation in our personal lives, community life and transformation of the world around us. May we find the strength, the wisdom, the clarity of mind and purpose, to continue the work of transformation in our own lives. And even as we grow and develop individually and as a community, may we recognize that we are also doing the work of transforming our world. Like the disciples of Emmaus let us make our encounters, moments of transformation.

Yours affectionately



Sr. Celine Jacob

Provincial.