



XXVI/1

June 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings from the Provincial house!

At the outset I would like to give an account of the concluding ceremony of our Silver Jubilee year.

The curtain rang down upon the Silver Jubilee Year of our Province on 31 May 2018. The Team members, the Administrators of all our Communities the Novices and Sisters of the Neighbouring Communities were present. During the soul-stirring Morning Prayer, our hearts rode on the waves of thankfulness for the 'amazing grace' that made us grow, of repentance for our failures, of hope in God's abiding presence and of firm determination that "Nothing will separate us from the love of Christ".

At the offertory of the Eucharist concelebrated by the Vice Provincial Fr. Jose Koyikal and Fr. James Kadankavil Rector of Kristu Jyoti College, Sr. Ruby Korah the first Provincial handed over the Golden lamp to me (Sr. Celine Jacob) as a symbol of passing from the Silver years to the Golden one. In his inspiring homily, Fr. Jose commented on the Faith journey of Mary, of Don Bosco and Mary Mazzarello and also of the Sisters who were present at the time of the birth of the new Province. He said: "The greatest wealth of the Province are our Sisters. Therefore they need to be formed well- dynamic, committed, hardworking, qualified, available for the Mission, good in relationship, with priority for the poor and serenity among themselves. Away with mediocrity, individualism and compartmentalism. Be courageous in responding to the needs of the Mission. Go back to the founding charism with personal and Institutional conversion".

After the Eucharist, the Silver Jubilee lamp that was lit on 31 May 2018, was handed over to Sr. Nisha Francis the youngest Sister present, as a symbol of entrusting the responsibility to the younger generations to keep the spirit and charism of the Institute burning bright in the future years. I (Sr. Celine) lit the lamp for all the Sisters present and we went in procession to the Sacred Heart's statue and renewed the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus the Patron of our Province.

All assembled in the hall for the cutting of the cake and for the releasing of the Silver Jubilee Souvenir, the Book of the Biographies of our dear departed Sisters of the past 25 years, the GEM translated into Kannada, the Prayer Book of ADMA in English and in Kannada, the Annual report of the CDEW FMA and the Collages of our departed Sisters and of the Houses of our Province. At the cutting of the cake, I expressed my ardent wish for the future: ***Vibrant love for God and for one another, and courage to go to the peripheries.***

I thank all our Sisters who worked very hard to animate the liturgy and get the entire above ready for their release on this occasion. With the sharing of a sisterly meal together the silver jubilee celebrations came to blissful end.

----- MOTHER GENERAL'S CIRCULAR- 979 -----

What a happy coincidence that our beloved Mother General has reached us with her Circular No.979 just as we begin the new academic year 2018-2019. Let us give a listening ear to her and decide to live a holy life and help the young people and the Educating Communities to do the same.

With her characteristic buoyancy, she presents the salient features of the latest Apostolic Exhortation "GAUDETE et EXSULTATE" of Pope Francis in which his words are also bubbling with enthusiasm and brimming with love for his flock. In our Communities we shall study it in detail. I shall only present a few excerpts from Mother's Circular for our immediate consideration.

Presenting the GE, Mother General says: "The Exhortation was welcomed with joy and enthusiasm all over the world and also in our Institute for its concreteness and clarity, for its simple language, adhering to daily life, and in harmony with our Salesian mission: the way of holiness with young people who are entrusted to us. I discovered significant aspects in full consonance with our spirituality, so much so that I was told: this is an Apostolic Exhortation that must more decisively inspire our journey. I will highlight the beauty of the *universal call to holiness* which is a gift of God *to be lived in community and to be realized in the mission with the young and for the young.*"

Mother explains: "From the beginning, in the simplicity of Mornese, our first sisters incarnated a holiness defined in the words of Pope Francis as 'next door' holiness: a concrete, discrete, and realistic holiness, which with courage and wisdom, knew how to measure itself against the challenges, difficulties, and inevitable contradictions characteristic of their times, but radiant, sparkling with joy and apostolic creativity. Mother Mazzarello had understood that, not alone, but *together with the community*, she was called to live a 'transfigured life'...

"For us religious it is not enough to save only our own soul. We must become holy and through our holy good works, help many other souls who are waiting for our help to become holy. Courage then, after a few days of struggle, we will have heaven forever "(L 18, 3).

Mother continues: "The Apostolic Exhortation frequently repeats that the call to holiness is for everyone, nobody excluded. Certainly in this 'all', young people are included who are at the center of the thoughts, love, and attention of Pope Francis; of his determination to make them active protagonists, builders of a new humanity, encouraging them to be the "saints of our time". In this regard, the choice of Synod 2018 for young people is significant: *Youth, faith, and vocational discernment.*

It is the task of the ecclesial community and of every educating community to help young people feel enveloped by the gaze of Jesus, provoked by His voice that calls them to set out on a journey, to go to build a more just and fraternal society according to the desire that young people themselves carry in their heart. But they need to be accompanied by wise people, available and able to guide them, support them and, above all, contagion them with the witness of a credible and happy life".

Hence dear Sisters, while I congratulate you for the excellent academic results (because that is important too), I earnestly request you to pay utmost attention to the moral and spiritual formation of the young people entrusted to your care: to make them "saints of our times" as Pope Francis wants and Jesus, Mary and our Holy Founders want.

----- LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS -----

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus presents us with the opportunity to reflect on the relevance of this venerable symbol in our daily lives. The image of the Sacred Heart is never mentioned as such in Sacred Scripture, but its meaning can be found spanning each page from Genesis to Revelation. True devotion to the Sacred Heart means devotion to the Divine Heart of Christ insofar as His Heart represents and recalls His love for us. Jesus' heart reaches out for us, it goes out in search of us; it pines after us as a shepherd for a lost sheep. As our Province just celebrated the 25th anniversary of its foundation, with grateful minds and hearts for all that we have experienced let us continue our journey to the golden years allowing ourselves to be touched by the love of Christ. In the ordinary moments of our lives, the simple as much as the spectacular, and the majestic as well as the mundane, may we be transformed by the knowledge that we are loved, and respond with gratitude to love in return. May our hearts beat along with the heart of Jesus, be conformed unto His, and in doing so become channels of His intense, intimate love for each person; that our hearts too may be inflamed by the incarnate love of God.

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist was one of those figures in history whom God used as he stood apart from other men. He was blessed with the insight which allowed men to follow God's plan upon mankind. He was more than a prophet who had the courage not only to challenge the people and teach them what they really needed to be saved, how much they needed to repent. He even showed them how to find the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6), the One who could bring them salvation. He was a model of selflessness and humility as he pointed away from himself to Jesus who was greater than him. "Behold, One is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet." (Acts 13:25) Every man has a role in God's Church. John, the Baptizer was the forerunner for Christ and He paved the way for His coming. He suffered imprisonment and chains as a witness to our Redeemer and gave his life for him. His persecutors did not demand that he should deny Christ, but only that he should keep silent about the truth. Nevertheless, he died for Christ as Christ is the Truth. Because John shed his blood for the truth, he surely died for Christ.

As we celebrate the birth of John the Baptizer, God wants us to realize that we too have a role to take in His salvation plan. He said in Isaiah 49:3: "You are my servant through whom I show my glory." If John spoke with strength, conviction and without fear out of his passion that everyone receives God's message, what should be our action plan in bringing the Good News to the ends of the earth?

SOLEMNITY OF Sts. PETER AND PAUL

As ordinary men, Peter and Paul might have avoided each other from time to time. Peter was a fisherman from the Sea of Galilee and Paul a Greek-educated intellectual. But Jesus brought them together as a sign for his Church in which the entire spectrum of humanity would find a new place to call home. Together they worked to build the Church. Together they witnessed to Christ. Together they suffered the death of their Lord, death at murderous hands. Paul died by the sword and Peter was crucified head-down. They had a unity that transcended all differences. They teach us about the depth of Christian commitment. For Peter and Paul, insight into Jesus' true identity brought new demands and responsibilities.

They were apostles with two different styles, they served the Lord in very different ways, they lived the Church in a manner that was sometimes dialectic if not in opposition, but both sought to follow the Lord and his will and together, thanks to their very diversity, they were able to give a face to the Christian mission and a foundation to the Church of Rome that presides in charity. It is hence fitting to celebrate their memory together; a memory of unity in diversity, of life given over for the love of the Lord, of charity lived in expectation of Christ's return.

The solemnity of Peter and Paul teaches us that the Church at prayer is a Church on her feet, strong, moving forward! Indeed, a Christian who prays is a Christian who is protected, guarded and sustained, and above all, who is never alone. As we celebrate this feast let us be firm in our faith that nothing may shake us.

POPE'S DAY

June 29th is also celebrated as the Pope's Day. We have inherited from Don Bosco, love and devotion to the Pope as part of our spirituality. Let us inculcate it in our young people and get them involved in praying for our Holy Father Pope Francis. As the Pope of the 'Laudato Si', of unparalleled mercy, compassion and concern for the poor and the suffering, and for the whole of creation, Pope Francis has won the hearts of the whole humanity and is the Pride and Jewel of the Church. May his relentless efforts to bring peace and harmony in the world be crowned with success.

----- COMMUNICATION -----

NATIONAL CRI ASSEMBLY – 2018

Participating in the National CRI Assembly was a beautiful and at the same time a challenging experience for me. While thanking God for our charism I also appreciate the manifold ways the consecrated men and women serve the Church and society in a gigantic way. The theme was: **Urgent matters facing us today; Moving to the Peripheries: Learning from those who have done it.** The meaningful sharing by individuals and organizations has indeed touched our hearts and made us to commit ourselves to reach out to the peripheries as Pope Francis is exhorting us. I express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Fr.V. M Thomas S.D.B the President and Fr. Joe Mannath S.D.B the Secretary for their untiring efforts in making this assembly a fruitful experience. We owe a debt of gratitude to SRM University, Chennai - Kattankulathur Campus for their generosity, kindness and self less service. It was really a memorable and unforgettable experience.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hearty congratulations to our Sisters and Students who have passed with good grades and marks in the University and Board examinations. We congratulate the Principals, HMs and sisters, students and all the teachers who followed their wards with keen interest to achieve good results. May the Glory of God shine in all that we do.

THANK YOU!

- My sincere thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and the Provincial House Community for making the necessary arrangements for the First Profession, Final Profession and Renewal of Vows of the Junior sisters. The liturgy of the Rites of First Profession as well as that of the Renewal of vows of the various groups and the fraternal meal that followed were all well planned and arranged to the satisfaction of everyone.
- A special word of gratitude and appreciation to the Provincial - Sr. Elizabeth George and to Sr. Lissy Rose Mathew and her community at Auxilium Guwahati, for accompanying four of our Junior Sisters with much love and attention for the past one year, during the time of their intensive Juniorate. The time spent together with sisters of different geographical and cultural back ground had been an added advantage of such inter-provincial experiences. Thank you Sr. Elizabeth for receiving the vows of our sisters: Sr. Arul Vanan J. Amala Priya, Sr. Pushparaj Asha Latha, Savarinathan Lawra Albena and Sr. Yammala UdayaKumari and Sr. Wari Rwisumwi on 24th May.
- My heartfelt thanks to Sr. Rosy Malayatty and the community at Nirmal Jyothi for the arrangements made for the renewal of the vows of Sr. Sushma Korabandi and Sr. Florence Leivon on 23 May. My sincere thanks to Sr. Rosy also for receiving their vows.

WELCOME HOME

Our four Sisters Sr. Arul Vanan J. Amala Priya, Sr. Pushparaj Asha Latha, Savarinathan Lawra Albena and Sr. Yammala Udaya Kumari, have successfully completed their intensive Juniorate at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. They have returned to the Province yesterday 6 June. While we welcome them with joyful hearts we wish them fruitful mission in their new assignments.

We happily welcome Sr. Jigi Paul who will be returning on 11th June to the Province after having completed the course for the formators. We wish her a fruitful mission of animation in Kanakakunnu.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences:

- ✚ To dear Sr. Sheela Jacob at the demise of her beloved mother (82) on 18th May 2018.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of Delhi Province at the sudden passing away of Fr. Naikamparambil Jose, SDB (71) on 01 May 2018.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the Province of Mumbai at the loss of Fr Lloyd Rodrigues on 15 May 2018.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of Chennai Province at the death of Fr. Basil Thomaplackal (86) on 18 May 2018.
- ✚ To the Provincial and confreres of Bangalore Province at the sudden demise of Fr. Manu Kuzhiveliparambil (35) on 22 May 2018.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Annie Kottaram at the loss of her sister Sr. Rosakutty Kottarm FMM (78) on 27th May 2018.

- ✚ To our dear Sr. Mary Manjil who lost her dear brother Mathew (89) on 7th June due to a heart attack. He had spoken to her the same day and had no sign of any ailment.
 - ✚ To dear Sr. Jyothi Mary Gunti at the loss of her brother- in-law Mr. Arkinadam (62) on 8th June 2018.
- May the departed souls rest in peace!

Let this New Year bring new life to our communities and the Mission!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Reline Jacobs

Provincial



SACRED HEART OF JESUS BLESS US AND HAVE MERCY ON US.....

