



XXVI/ 3

August 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial house!

Holiness – A Call and a Challenge

In his Apostolic Exhortation, on the call to holiness in today's world titled "Gaudete et Exsultate", the Pope is re-proposing to all of us the call to holiness in a practical way for our time, with its risks, challenges and opportunities. "Walk before me and be blameless", God tells Abraham. God want us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. This invitation is for all of us.

We have a 'crowd of witnesses' the Pope says who impels us to advance constantly toward the goal. Not only those who have been beatified and canonized fall into this category but all those who have completed their pilgrimage in this world and have reached the shores of eternity. These witnesses may include our mothers, grandmothers and dear ones. Even amidst faults and failings they moved forward and proved worthy of the Lord, says the Pope.

The book of Revelation speaks of the bonds of love and communion of the saints with us. The belief and conviction that 'All the saints of God are there to protect me, sustain me, and to carry me' should strengthen our confidence to march along life's journey without fear and trepidation.

(It will be good if you could share in the community about the holy lives of your parents, Grandparents and other relatives, with practical examples, to edify one another.)

The Bible speaks of God entering into the life and history of **a people**. Lumen Gentium says "God made men and women holy and saved them not as individuals but as a people. The Old Testament is the story of the chosen group; called, saved and given everything they needed by the Providence of God. God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of

interpersonal relationships present in the human community.

The Pope recognizes the holiness of the militant church, found in the *next door neighbour*, who reflects God's presence. They are "the middle class of holiness". The Pope gives a series of examples, such as 'parents who raise their children with immense love; men and women who work hard to support their families, the sick, the elderly religious who never lose their smile...'

In our communities, in our campuses there are individuals whose mystical life remains invisible. Shall we discover them this year and make them visible and audible?

(Speak about the signs of holiness of the sisters in the community or in the province. There will surely be hidden manifestations of holiness. Let us make effort to observe them and speak about them. Thus we will make holiness visible. 'Praise loudly, blame softly...')

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

BIRTHDAY OF THE INSTITUTE



05th August is a memorable day for the whole Institute as it was on this beautiful day 146 years back Mother Mazzarello and her companions, made their first Profession in the presence of Don Bosco in the little Chapel of the Collegio in Mornese. The 5th of August is an opportunity to return to the evangelical and charismatic sources, to the motivations that give a meaning to life and which come from the heart; it is an event of grace in which we can find once more with greater depth the roots of our own call. The solemn feast of August 5th is lived recalling to our mind the history God interwove with each one of us, being aware that we are called to recount it and to realize it day by day, in the certainty that each one is indispensable in order for history to be more original and more rich in novelty. It is a history to live as protagonists, with and for the young, whom to attract with the testimony of a joyful fidelity that awakens questions on the sense of life. As we celebrate our foundation day let us renew our commitment.



ASSUMPTION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY & INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

Mary's greatness was not just in being chosen to be Jesus' mother but in her total acceptance of that responsibility in faith and trust, accepting blindly all that it might entail. And, indeed, she had no idea the price she would have to pay to be the mother of Jesus. But, again, like her Son she had emptied herself in total service to him and today we celebrate her reward, her being raised to the highest place among the human race. By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our

gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful. Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. As Our Nation celebrates its 72nd Independence Day to commemorate the birth of a free and democratic nation. For us Indians it is a significant day and we recall the sacrifices of great Indian leaders who had given their lives for the freedom and prosperity of the country. Freedom of India was possible because of the cooperation, sacrifice and involvement of all the Indians. We should value and salute all the Indian citizens because they are the real national heroes. Let us look at Mary as our model and pray that “May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share Mary’s glory.” On this solemnity of our blessed Mother Mary, Queen of India, let us pray that our Country may be freed from all shackles that bind her from real freedom.



BL. MARIA TRONCATTI

On 25th August we celebrate Blessed Maria Troncatti, a Salesian Sister, who trained and worked as a Red Cross nurse in military hospitals in the First World War, and was a missionary in Ecuador for many years. Sr. Maria Troncatti made her first profession in 1908 at Nizza Monferrato. She left for Ecuador in year 1922, She was part of an initially tiny group of Sisters engaged in evangelization and care for the Shuar people of the Amazon forest, looking after their physical needs as nurse, surgeon and dentist, and their spiritual needs as catechist, evangelizer and role-model. The work she began in an isolated and dangerous environment continues today. Blessed Maria was killed in a tragic plane crash on 25th August 1969. She was beatified in 2012. Let us ask her to intercede for us so that we may be true evangelizers wherever we are.



BI. ZEPHYRINO NAMUNCURA

Ceferino Namuncurá was born on the 26th August 1886 at Chimpay, on the banks of the Rio Negro. The spiritual dimension of life grew in him and he began to yearn to become a Salesian priest to evangelise his people. He chose Dominic Savio as a model, and over a period of five years, by his efforts to adapt to a totally new culture, he himself became another Dominic Savio. He was exemplary for his piety, charity, in his daily duty, and for his self-sacrifice. He was often found in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This saintly seminarian died on the morning of May 11 at the age of eighteen, surrounded by several of the brothers who were praying for him. Zepherino was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI in 1972. He was beatified on November 11, 2007 in Chimpay, Argentina.



ST.EUFRASIA

Lives of saints show us the way they trod to reach the heart of God. God puts His seal of sanctity on their lives – the lives lived for Him and His children. St. Euphrasia, a Carmelite nun, lived every moment of her life loving and worshipping God and serving Him in her fellow creatures, her suffering brothers and sisters. 30th August we celebrate the feast of St. Euphrasia a humble CMC nun who has personalized the prayer heritage of Carmel and lived according to the divine inspirations and rose to the heights of sanctity. All those who approached her she helped with motherly love, prayer and good advice. This holy virgin who desired to become an unknown saint is raised today to the glory of the altar by the Almighty and the sweet fragrance of her sanctity is spread worldwide. She had offered her virginity forever to the Lord and desired to become the bride of Christ. May her life be an inspiration to each one us, as we celebrate her feast.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

- **Sincere thanks** to Sr. Monica and community for hosting the various meetings in the provincial house. **Seminar on writing skills, Workshop on Social Ministry, Seminar on religious leadership** for animators of communities and **Tri monthly recollection and animation** of juniors.
- On 5th August 2018 the golden bells pealed in joyous melody as Rev. Sr. Teresa Kayaniyil's **golden jubilee** was celebrated thanking God for the 50 dedicated years in the service of the Lord. Rev. Fr. Mathew her brother celebrated the holy Eucharist together with her nephew and other concelebrants. Sisters from all our communities, her companions from Chennai province and young people from Bangalore communities and in particular children from Navajeevana made it very colourful and memorable. Sr. Teresa expressed her heartfelt gratitude to God, the Institute and every one present on this beautiful occasion.
- Sr. Miriam Vettukallel and Sr. Mary Valiarambil attended a renewal programme together with their profession batch at Admadarshan, Patna and thereafter a meeting around Sr. Philomena prabalanathan their novice mistress at Ranchi from 29th July to 6th August.
- Karnataka Regional Conference of Religious (KRCR) was held on August 03- 05 2018 in Mysuru. Theme : Religious Leadership- Innovative – Incarnation – Intervention
Sr. Maria Rajeswari represented me in the meeting. **Highlights: Incarnation** – God becoming man: Recognize Jesus in flesh and reality. Accept our history, failures. Look for future mystery. **Innovation** – is new and renews not represent ourselves but Re-Present ourselves. **Intervention** – begin to live, change attitude, go back to sources of Institute and Jesus.

NEW MISSION AT MOOLAMATTAM

I am happy to inform that on 15th August we will be starting a new presence in Moolamattam, Kerala in the diocese of Palai. This centre is founded by Mrs. Mercy Jose in memory of her only daughter (late) and is named as Geetha Village. This center caters to the YaR and at present there are about 25 children. She is willing to hand it over to us, so we will be rendering our service this year and by the end of the year we will be doing all the necessary transactions. It will be attached to the community of Palluruthy. Sr. Anna Chacko and Sr. Valsa George will be the pioneers. We assure them of our prayerful support.

APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE

Our 6 Second year novices will go for their apostolic experience from 6th August – 6th September 2018. Komerla Thomasamma to Nandigama, Velupula Swaroopa Rani to Chandur, Cheiyyadri Baby to Warangal, Nandru Anusha to Yeleswaram, Maria Vincent Mary Padmini to Maradiyur and Lourdamma Mereeta to Vazhichal. We wish them a deep and meaningful experience of community and mission.

INTENSIVE JUNIORATE

Two of our temporary professed sisters, Sr. Crasta Leena, Sr. Dominic Venila, will be leaving on the 8th August for Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati, for their Intensive Juniorate. They will commence their intensive Juniorate on 13th August. We wish them a fruitful and enriching formative experience.

COURSES FOR THE NEW ANIMATORS

Sr. Lobo Jacintha, Sr. Thomas Anita and Sr. Paul Jigi will be participating in the Seminar for religious Superiors and counseling skills for Animators from 15th – 22nd August in NBCLC.

JERUSALEM PROJECT

Sr. Sheela Jacob is invited by the department of formation to be part of the animating team of Jerusalem project. So there is a training programme for the animators from 14th August to 15th September 2018. We wish Sr. Sheela an experiential learning time in the Land of Jesus.

MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE IN SHILLONG

Sr. Rosy Lopez and Sr. Celine Antony will be participating in the missionary animation Course in Shillong followed by Holy Land pilgrimage. They leave on 31st August and will be back on 4th October. We wish them a fruitful and unforgettable experience.

PROJECT MORNESE

Sr. Jacob Bridget, Sr. Kallungal Mary, Sr. Joseph Anice, Sr. Jacob Rani, Sr. Joseph Annamma will be participating in Project Mornese. They will leave for Rome on 29th August and will be back on 1st October. Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani who is one of the animators of Mornese Project for the English speaking group will be also leaving for Italy on 22nd of this month. We wish all of them an awesome, productive and enriching experience as they touch the Holy grounds where the Christian Faith and Salesian Charism were born. Fruitful and fervent pilgrimage!

SALESIAN FAMILY MAJOR SUPERIORS CONFERENCE

The major superiors of the Salesian family will be meeting at Siloam, Shillong on 1 and 2 September 2018. Prior to this there will be a meeting of FMA provincials on 31 August. A warm welcome to dear Sr. Lucy Rose who will preside over this meeting. So I will be leaving for Shillong on 30 August and will be back on 3 September.

NCP TRAINING PROGRAMM

Sr. Mary Joseph, Sr. Nirmala Rodda and Sr. Selvi paneerselvam together with Mr. Antony, CDEW staff will be participating in this training programme organized by NDF from 16-18th September in Mannivakkam.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & ORIENTATION

Sr. Anna Thoppil, Elizabeth Pothen, Sr. Monica Thomas and I will be participating in this programme at USM in Indore from 10- 17th September.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- ❖ For all those who are affected by the natural calamities of excess rain, floods and landslides that the Lord may protect and save specially the poor people to find necessary means to continue their life.
- ❖ For all the urgent needs of the province
- ❖ For all the elderly and ailing sisters and dear ones

CONDOLENCES

- To Sr. Isabella Suja and the Sisters of Shillong province at the passing away of Sr. Liliana Marak on 30 June 2018.
- To dear Fr. Godfrey and the confreres of INB at the demise of Fr. Jude D'Mello (51) on 18th July 2018.
- To dear Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel and the confreres of INM at the loss of Fr Joseph Vettom (92) on 06th June 2018 at Aluva.
- To dear Fr. Sangma Januarius and the confreres of ING at the demise of Rev. Fr. Jose Nadackal (N.T.) SDB (69) on 04th August 2018.

- To dear Sr. Teresa Thomas at the loss of her cousin brother Mr. John P Thomas on 17th July 2018.

CONCLUSION

In Circular No. 980 our mother General exhorts us: As Institute, we feel strongly questioned by the call to pastoral conversion. It requires a change of mentality, new styles of action in comparison to what we have done until now. Illumined by GC XXIII, and now also by the Synod, we continue to choose to cultivate a positive attitude toward every person and reality, to feel we are journeying with the young, immersed in the fabric of daily life, to seek together new paths and assume discernment as a life style (Cf. GC XXIII, 33-35). The Synod itself proposes the discernment process as a method and a life style, an habitual way of proceeding by listening to the Holy Spirit in every circumstance of personal and community life, and of the mission. (cf. *IL*, 111.139).

We entrust to Mary each one of us, that she may make us bold to walk courageously the path of holiness with our young people and educating communities.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

