



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR - INK

Province of Sacred Heart of Jesus

XXVI/ 4

September 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial house!

All of us are well aware of the unprecedented inundation in Kerala and South Karnataka, the sad consequences it created. "God`s own country" has suffered the worst disaster in the century. The unusually active south west monsoon and the depression in the sea together brought about torrential rain and caused landslides in the hilly areas which with lightning speed washed away houses and people, uprooted trees and irreparably damaged the roads and bridges. Traffic by road and rail was blocked. The several dams in the State threatened to overflow or rupture, and so had to be opened little by little. This water, together with the heavy non-stop rain, caused the rivers to overflow and flood the surrounding areas. Kuttanad is a region covering the Alappuzha and Kottayam Districts, well known for its vast paddy fields and geographical peculiarities is completely under water and the entire paddy that had been sown there was destroyed. As it lies below the sea level, the water does not exit and the people cannot return to their homes which are submerged.

In the midst of all this sufferings, there shines a streak of light....This disaster has brought to light the best in every human being. There is an outpouring of goodwill and support from across the country and even abroad. The Government, the people of all castes and creed without any distinction have joined hands and are working with one heart and soul. Our sisters from the different communities in Kerala as well as from Karnataka who had gone for the relief work attest that the youth of Kerala are in the fore front of relief work sacrificing themselves without counting the cost. Hopefully the worst is over, yet Kerala has to be rebuilt from its brokenness. Let us do all we can to support in building up this land to its former splendour. Let us believe in the power of prayer and united efforts.

I thank you dear sisters for rising to the occasion and getting out of our houses to help the families in cleaning up the houses and providing them with necessities. Once the relief work is over as a province we will try to help to renovate and construct few houses as well as to help the families who have lost land, crops and other possessions.

I would like to place on record our FMA provinces for their concern and solidarity in reaching out with their hearts and hands to support our relief work. Sincere thanks dear sisters for the relief fund you have forwarded to us.

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

BIRTHDAY OF BL. VIRGIN MARY

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large. Like all parents, Mary's parents probably took one look at their newborn daughter and knew that she was special. Joachim and Ann loved God very much, and they were filled with gratitude to God for the gift of a child. They raised Mary as a child of God, teaching her to love and serve God. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she had been chosen to be the Mother of God, her strong faith and trust allowed her to say yes to God's plan for her. We cannot be certain what the future holds for any newborn infant, but we do know that the life of each person has meaning and purpose. When Mary was born, the world did not know who she was. Sometimes others—and maybe even we—don't see how special we are. May be we forget that God is calling us, too, right now, to do what Mary did—to bring Jesus into the world. When we celebrate his mother's birth, we honour Jesus too. Today thank God for the gift of life, and give honor to both Mary and Jesus by showing respect and concern for one another—remembering that God has created each person with love and with a call to do something very special in life. As we celebrate the girl child's day today, let us pledge to work for their well being and dignity.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The cross is at the centre of our lives every time we face sickness and death. The cross is at the centre of our lives in frailty and old age. The cross is at the centre of our lives every time we feel utterly alone and abandoned. The Cross is at the centre of our lives every time we are tempted to give in and give up. It is at the centre of our lives every time we are tempted to throw our hands up in despair. It keeps reminding us that only when we embrace the cross in the midst of suffering and abandonment can we understand the power of the resurrection. Only when we embrace the cross is it possible for God to raise us up and give us new life. And so this feast provides us with another opportunity to reflect on the central mystery of our faith: that the one who was lifted up on the cross in crucifixion has triumphed over the power of sin and death because God highly exalted him. So the cross is not only victorious, it is fruitful. It bore the fruit of salvation in the loving act of Christ but has kept bearing new fruit throughout the ages.

STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

The Holy Scripture mentioned the angels beginning from the Book of Genesis up to the Book of Revelation. Each of these archangels performs a different mission in Scripture: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides. Angels are real and it's not necessarily a winged messenger of God. Angel can be a friend, a relative or a complete stranger who would bring us closer to God. God sends them to us to direct our ways toward Him. Do we believe in angels? In the bible there are many passages that tell us of the reality of angels. For example Hebrews 1:13-14 tells us; 1/13 God never said to any of his angels: Sit here at my right side until I put your enemies as a footstool under your feet. 1/14 For all these spirits are only servants, and God sends them to help those who shall be saved. Psalm 91:11 tells us this as well; 11 "For he will command his angels to guard you in all your ways". As we celebrate the feast of Archangels let

us increase the devotion and invocations to the angels in our daily life.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

PCI 2018

On 31 August 2018 the seven provincials of PCI met together in Shillong, Bellefonte for the annual meeting. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, FMA, Visiting General Councillor from Rome animated us on the importance of our life and mission in her introductory talk, Quoting pope Francis. “*I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world*” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). Further she explained that every FMA and every province is a mission.

Sr. Rose Ezarath, President, FMA-PCI took up the agenda and continued the meeting. One of the important issues discussed was in reference to the letter of Mother General to the Indian Provincials, expressing the urgent need for missionaries for Sri Lanka and Nepal and recommending us to cooperate with the provinces of Chennai and Kolkata to build up the mission in these countries. So, if anyone feels the call of God for a mission *ad gentes*, pray and discern God’s will. We also spent substantial time to reflect together and answer the questionnaire on animation and governance.

SALESIAN FAMILY CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS

We met on 01 and 02 September 2018 at Siloam, Shillong. There were about twenty eight participants belonging to the different congregations belonging to the Salesian Family.

Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga, the Regional Councillor of South Asia initiated reflections with the members on the evolution of ideas within the Salesian family. Fr Maria Charles, the Youth Pastoral Delegate of South Asia presented the theme of Synod 2018 *Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment* and on the SPCSA theme *Working Together on Nation Building in the Constitutional Way*. Evening session began with the presentation by the provincials on how they have been implementing the deliberations of the last meeting in 2016 in Bangalore: Bonding among the Salesian Family; Migrant Ministry; Family Ministry; Ecological Concerns. There were also other points for information and discussion. More details of the meeting will be send to the communities for reflection and follow up. We thank Father Paul Lyngkot Olphindro SDB, Provincial INS, Fr. George Palamattathil SDB, Director Siloam, Sr. Isabella Suja FMA, Provincial INS and Fr. Albert Johnson, National Coordinator for Salesian Family for the enriching experience of PCI and CMS.

GOLDEN JUBILEE – RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Sr. Teresa Kayaniyil will attend the Renewal Programme for the Golden Jubilarians from September 24 to October 9 at PRERANA, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, at Bangalore.

WORLD CLEAN UP DAY 2018

World Clean up Day 2018 is an important international event on 15 September. This is an exciting opportunity to involve our institutions in a global environmental initiative.

It aims to connect and empower people and organizations around the world to make our planet waste free through the biggest civic action in human history. Let us welcome this global

initiative and cooperate with all people of good will to make a change in and around our Institutions.

SILVER JUBILARIANS COURSE

Sr. Lizy Essson, Sr. Sherly Puthuussery and Sr. Seena Joseph will attend this renewal course in DBRC Bangalore from 12th to 25th September, which will give them the opportunity to reflect about the fidelity of God and thank Him for the past twenty five years and also to recommit themselves to the mission entrusted to them.

NECDB PROGRAMME IN SRM

The National Educational Conference of Don Bosco Schools – India (NECDBS) is organized once in two years. This year it is being held at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology Kattankulathur, Chennai from 28th September to 1st October 2018. The Conference will commence at 4.00 p.m. on 28th September and will conclude on 1st October 2018 at 1.00 p.m. The objective of this Conference is to facilitate the Principals with new ideas and to exchange the best practices followed at various educational institutions across the Country. Sr. Lucy Michael, Sr. Prameela Sundari and Sr. Jisha Abraham will participate in it. This Conference will feature renowned education specialists with the theme “Committed to Accompanying the Young”, with a special outlook of the Strenna 2018, developing a framework of Commitment and Accompaniment, in shaping and moulding the young.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✦ To dear Sr. Lizy Devasia at the demise of her beloved mother Mrs. Mariamma on 15 August 2018.
- ✦ To dear Sr. Mercy Abraham at the loss of her nephew Mr. Job (33) on 15 August 2018.
- ✦ To dear Sr. Bridget Kavalam at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Thomas George Kavalam (81) on 21 August 2018.
- ✦ To dear Sr. Anita Joseph at the loss of her paternal aunt Mrs. Elikutty (86) on 26 August 2018.
- ✦ To dear Sr. Bala Savarimuthu at the sudden passing away of her beloved brother Mr. Anthony Raj (52) on 31 August 2018.
- ✦ To Sr. Clara Rayalu at the loss of her aunt Sr. Mary Lilly Ann (82) St. Ann’s of Madhavaram on 3 September 2018.
- ✦ To Sr. Teresa Thomas at the passing away of her cousin brother V.C Joseph (80) on 5 September 2018.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- ❖ Let us continue to pray for the speedy and complete rehabilitation of the thousands of people affected by the serious calamity in Kerala and Karnataka.
- ❖ For all the urgent needs of our province in particular issues related to land and buildings.
- ❖ For all our sick and elderly sisters
- ❖ For the dear ones of our sisters who are ill in particular, father of Sr. Shiny Karackatt, Mother of Sr. Valsa George, Sister in law, uncle and cousin of Sr. Teresa Thomas.

CONCLUSION

Holiness...

The Lord calls: “Be holy, for I am holy”. This is a *personal call* of God addressed to each one of us. “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect” (LG 11)

Each of us need to discern our own path to holiness, we must try to bring out the best in ourselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in our hearts and use them to attain holiness rather than imitating something in someone that is not meant for us. God’s life is communicated to some in one way and to others in another way.

(Let us discover and share the special gifts of each member of the community and appreciate them. Speak about the way each sister is using them to become holy.)

The Holy Father has a special love for women and he speaks about the ‘genius of women’ seen in the feminine styles of holiness, which are an essential means of reflecting God’s holiness in the world. In times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigor and important reforms in the Church. The Pope speaks of those unknown or forgotten women who each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness. We could speak about our own Mother Mazzarello and our saintly sisters.

(Share with each other during a good night or spiritual reading time incidents from the lives of women saints and what they did to bring about spiritual vigor.)

God has a unique plan for each one of us “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you “and it is our responsibility to give our all and embrace that unique plan and attain holiness.

We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we

do wherever we find ourselves and whatever be choice we have made in life.

We play different roles in our communities. It's in putting lot of love in what we do and doing them with a smile on our face we attain holiness. As consecrated persons in our communities opportunities are not wanting to manifest love and joy in little actions of everyday living.

The grace of baptism must bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God, turn to him in every situation. We could recall the holiness of Mother Mazzarello. "Let every stitch be an act of love of God." At the strike of the clock "an hour closer to eternity"...The Holy Father speaks about the short invocations and little prayers which we can address to God. "Lord I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little bit better."

Like a bride bedecked with jewels, the Church offers us the gifts of the Scriptures, the Sacraments, holy places, living communities, witness of saints for our use. Holiness is attained through *small gestures* in everyday life. The Pope mentions very practical examples. We can find many more and share with each other.

I Wish each one of you a very Happy Feast of Our Lady of Velankkani and assure you of my prayers that she may help us to be physically and spiritually healthy so as to be enthusiastic and committed in our mission!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob

Provincial



Our Lady of Good Health

Pray for Us!!