



XXVI/ 6

November 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial house!

As we begin the month of November, a time traditionally set aside by Catholics to remember both the Saints and those who have died. "All Saints Day" (Nov. 1) and "All Souls Day" (Nov. 2) set the tone for the month. The pain of death and loss touches all people and religious people turn to their faith traditions for some answers and consolation in the loss of loved ones. Saints are the spiritual superheroes of our church.

All Souls Day and the commemoration of the dead throughout the month of November is a source of consolation and hope for each of us. It is dedicated to the memory, not just of the Saints but also to all the faithful departed. For Christians and Catholics, the holy souls in purgatory (not a place but a state of waiting and longing) see ever more clearly what we intuit from afar. They are already within reach of eternal life, the loving arms of Jesus; but they are not yet closely within his embrace.

At every Mass, in the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest remembers all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord; the priest implores God to grant them a place of happiness, light and peace. Thus, there is no Mass in which the Church does not pray for the faithful departed. During this month let us fervently offer every holy Mass for the dear departed that they may soon enjoy the beatific vision of the Lord.

On 14th October Declaring Pope Paul VI and martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero saints of the global Catholic Church, Pope Francis said the two prelates show that Christians are called not to take "half measures" but to strive for holiness, even sometimes at the risk of their own safety.

At a Mass with tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square for the canonizations of Paul, Romero and five others the pontiff said the human heart "can cling to one master only and it must choose."

"Either it will love God or it will love the world's treasure; either it will live for love or it will live for itself," said the pope. "Let us ask for the grace always to leave things behind for love of the Lord: to leave behind wealth, the yearning for status and power."

Reflecting on the witness of Paul VI — who led the Catholic Church from 1963-78 and presided over the reforms of the landmark Second Vatican Council — Francis said Paul "urges us,

together with the Council whose wise helmsman he was, to live our common vocation: *the universal call to holiness.*"

"*Not to half measures, but to holiness,*" the pope clarified. ---- We need a strong and vibrant community where we can pray and be formed, but the church is not meant to keep us in. The church's role is to send us forth. Saints know this. They are women and men whose lives flow seamlessly from prayer to action. Let us become part of this group where we can experience everlasting joy.

CHILDREN'S DAY- 14th

Universally, Children's Day is celebrated on 20th November, as on this day in 1959, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. However, in India this day has been proposed to 14th November, the date that marks the birth anniversary of independent India's first Prime Minister – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The reason why his birthday has been chosen for the celebration of children is because of his love and passion for children. Pandit Nehru is also regarded as the country's special child to have been the first Prime Minister, after her long struggle for independence.

While celebrating the Children's Day, the fortunate children in our Institutions and around us should be reminded about their good fortune to have all that they are endowed with, while there are others who can barely feed, clothe themselves or have access to literacy, in our society. We need to form the children and young people to be grateful for what they have and help them to experience the joy of sharing.

BL. MAGDALENE MORANO -15th

On 15th November we will remember Blessed Magdalene Morano who was a 'teacher' par excellence; she was an intelligent woman rich in love, goodness, vivacity and wisdom. As a young teacher she lived a life of deep union with God, teaching catechism, preparing children for the sacraments, visiting the sick and serving the parish community. She took up the work of formation of the many new vocations that were attracted by her zeal and the community atmosphere she created. She always lived up to her resolution - "never block the action of Grace by giving into personal egotism". Her life even today is a prophecy of love inspiring us in the education of women and joyful and zealous evangelization. May she continue to inspire and help us in our mission of spreading the Good news to all who are around us.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR – 18th

November 18, 2018 marks the second annual World Day of the Poor. Last year, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can "reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel." He designated this day as the World Day of the Poor, and it will be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year. In this year's World Day of the Poor message, Pope Francis reflects on Psalm 34:7, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him." He challenges us to use the World Day of the Poor as an opportunity to make an examination of conscience and consider whether we truly do hear the cry of the poor.

Throughout salvation history, God answers the cries of the poor and shares in their suffering. His response is always a saving and healing act. In the World Day of the Poor, we join God in

responding to the poor and ensuring our brothers and sisters in need do not feel alone or abandoned. Pope Francis says that to hear and respond to their cries, we must be in relationship and get to know people who are poor. He encourages parishes around the world to join in solidarity with people who are poor in their communities through a communal action, like praying together or sharing a meal.

SERVANT OF GOD MAMMA MARGARET 25th

Mamma Margaret's deep spirituality, profound faith in God, heroic detachment and unconditional love brought into this world John Bosco. She sowed into his heart the seed of the Salesian mission of the salvation of young people. Mamma Margaret was a true mother to all the boys, attentive and solicitous, as to make them forget their own mothers who were either dead or far away.

Following in the footsteps of Don Bosco, we cannot but look at his mother. It was she who led him on the road to sanctity. Let us pray to her and earnestly desires that one day she will be raised to the altar like our Father and Founder Don Bosco.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - 25th

Our King is Christ! And his kingship is different from all that we are used to. He does not come with political power or might. He does not come with weapons or threats. No! He comes as one of us. The question that we should ask ourselves today is simple: Is Christ the King of my life? Jesus is indeed the King of kings and Lord of lords.

ADVENT DEC. 2nd

It is a rich and powerful season of the Church year. Getting in Touch with Myself One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. Advent is a season on the Church's liturgical calendar year marked by a spiritual time of prayerful waiting, expectation, and preparation during the four weeks before Christmas. It is also a time to recall to mind our spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming on Christmas Day, His present coming into our hearts, and His second coming at the end of the world.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

FINAL DOCUMENT SYNOD

Vatican City, Oct. 27, 2018: On October 27 afternoon, the final document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops consisting of 3 parts, 12 chapters, 167 paragraphs and 60 pages is approved in the Synod Hall.

The text was received with applause, Cardinal da Rocha said. It is "the result of real teamwork"

on the part of the Synod Fathers, together with other Synod participants and “the young people in a particular way”.

The Document, therefore, gathers the 364 modifications, or amendments, that were presented. “Most of them,” the Cardinal said, “were precise and constructive”. Furthermore, the entire document passed with the necessary 2/3 majority voting in favor.

The inspiration for the Final Document for the Synod on Youth is the episode of the disciples of Emmaus, recounted by the evangelist Luke. It was read in the Synod Hall by Cardinal Sergio da Rocha, by the Special Secretaries, Fr. Giacomo Costa and Fr. Rossano Sala, together with Bishop Bruno Forte, a member of the Commission for the drafting of the text. It is complementary to the Instrumentum laboris of the Synod, and follows the three-part subdivision.

Part One: “He walked with them”

The first part of the document considers concrete aspects of young people’s lives. It emphasizes the important of schools and parishes. It acknowledges the need for laity to be trained to accompany young people especially since so many priests and bishops are already overburdened. The document notes the irreplaceable role of Catholic educational institutions. The challenge the Document addresses is the need to rethink the role of the parish in terms of its vocational mission because it is often ineffective and not very dynamic, above all in the realm of catechesis.

The reality of young people regarding migration, abuse, the “throwaway culture” are also dwelt on in part one. Regarding abuse, the Synod Document calls for a “firm commitment for the adoption of rigorous preventive measures that will keep such abuse from being repeated, beginning with the selection and formation of those to whom leadership and educational roles are entrusted”. The world of art, music and sports is also discussed in terms of using them as “pastoral resources”.

Part Two: “Their eyes were opened”

The Synod Document calls young people one of the “theological places” in which the Lord makes himself present. Thanks to them, it says, the Church can renew herself, shaking off its “heaviness and slowness”. Mission, it says is a “sure compass” for youth since it is the gift of self that brings an authentic and lasting happiness. Closely connected with the concept of mission is vocation. Every baptismal vocation is a call to holiness.

Two other aspects covered in part two that aid in the development of the mission and vocation of young people are that of accompaniment and discernment.

Part Three: “They left without delay”

The icon presented by the Synod Fathers of the young Church is Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the Resurrection. All young people, the Synod Fathers affirm, including those with different visions of life, are in God’s heart.

“Walking together” is the Synodal dynamic which the Fathers also bring to light in the part three. They invite the Conferences of Bishops’ around the world to continue the process of discernment

with the aim of developing specific pastoral solutions. The definition of “synodality” provided is a style for mission that encourages us to move from “I” to “we” and to consider the multiplicity of faces, sensitivities, origins and cultures.

One request repeatedly made in the hall, was that of establishing a “Directory of youth ministry in a vocational key” on the national level, that can help diocesan and parish leaders qualify their training and action “with” and “for” young people, helping to overcome a certain fragmentation of the pastoral care of the Church.

The Synod Document reminds families and Christian communities of the importance of accompanying young people to discover the gift of their sexuality. The bishops recognize the Church’s difficulty in transmitting “the beauty of the Christian vision of sexuality” in the current cultural context. It is urgent, the document says, to seek “more appropriate ways which are translated concretely into the development of renewed formative paths”.

In the end, the Document brings the various topics covered in the Synod into one vocational thrust, that is, the call to holiness. “Vocational differences are gathered in the unique and universal call to holiness”. Through the holiness of so many young people willing to renounce life in the midst of persecution in order to remain faithful to the Gospel, the Church can renew its spiritual ardor and its apostolic vigor.

The synod that began on October 3 ended on October 27.

APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE

Our four postulants will have their apostolic experience these days in different communities. Gagana to Maradiyur, Litveena to Hassan, Susmitha and Saniga to Ongole. May they have a fruitful experience in the mission!

MEETING OF THE ANIMATORS & PRINCIPALS

There will be three days of animation for the animators of communities and for the Principals on latest trends in corporate laws on 6th – 8th November at Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore.

FIRST PHASE OF SECOND NOVITIATE

The First Phase of the Second Novitiate will be held at Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore from 15th November to 15th December, 2018. The following Sisters from our Province will participate in the same: Sr. Asha Latha, Sr. Udaya Kumari, Sr. Laura Albena and Sr. Siljo Johnson. Srs. Peter Arockia Mary & Sundaram Bernadette Neha from INT, Sr. Perianayagam Prema Rani from INM and Srs. Neera Tigga, Clara Rai & Siljera Marak from INC. We extend a hearty welcome to the six young Sisters who will be joining our Sisters for the first phase. Sr. Shiny Karackatt will be responsible to coordinate the programme. We wish them a meaningful spiritual journey in preparation for their final commitment to the Lord.

COMMUNIO INDIA

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) has been deliberating for a long time on how to find a way of promoting evangelization and pastoral ministry in mission areas facing financial difficulty. It has been decided to start “Communio India” with the primary objective to help our mission dioceses and religious congregations as well as build a culture of sharing

among the people in order to express solidarity with the needy brothers and sisters in the country; to encourage our faithful to pray and help the missions and the missionaries and to promote missionary vocations; to inspire our lay faithful to work in mission areas as lay missionaries. The CCBI has suggested to observe at the national level on the first Sunday of Advent or a Sunday closest to the feast of St. Francis Xavier as Communio India Sunday”.

CHRISTO CENTRIC LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Twenty of our sisters who participated in the Christo Centric leadership retreat in Indore have returned with great enthusiasm and determination to live Christo Centric way of life and to become effective educators so as to bring out lasting fruits in our educative mission. Five of our sisters will be attending the same from 30th November to – 6th December 2018.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Let us praise and thank the Lord and Mary Help of Christians for the communities of Hassan, Kunnamangalam, FIDES centre and Auxilium School Bangalore for the 25 fruitful years of their service to God and humanity. As we congratulate and thank all those who have been instrumental in making them as they are today, let us pray for God’s blessings that we may grow from strength to strength and reach out to many young people to have life and have it in abundance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Loving and prayerful Birthday greetings to dear Sr. Lorenza D’Silva, the senior most sister of our province. As she turns 98 on 14th November, let us raise our hearts in thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of life he has granted her and for her witnessing, edifying and joyful life.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- ❖ For all the urgent needs of the province
- ❖ Let us continue to pray for our sisters, the ailing parents and dear ones of our Sisters.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- To dear Srs. Miriam Kallathupullathu & Rani Jacob at the loss of their beloved father Mr. Jacob (94) on 10th October 2018.
- To dear Srs. Mary Chandy, Jissy Chandy & Shiji Abraham at the demise of their paternal uncle Mr. Mathew (93) on 14 October 2018.
- To dear Sr. Miriam Vettukallel, at the sudden passing away of her dear brother Mr. Prince Vettukallel (46) on 31st October 2018.

CONCLUSION

ACTIVITY THAT SANCTIFIES

“Strive first for the Kingdom of God and its righteousness” (Mt. 6: 33). Jesus Christ came to this world to establish God’s Kingdom. We cannot separate Christ and His kingdom. As Christians

and much more as religious, whatever mission we may be engaged in even our personal mission is inseparable from the building of Christ's Kingdom.

Our task here on earth to build God's Kingdom which is a kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. We cannot grow in holiness without committing ourselves to giving our best in this endeavour. Pope Francis says: It is not healthy to love silence while fleeing interaction with others, to want to peace and quiet while avoiding activity, to seek prayer while disdaining service."

Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world and can become a part of our path to holiness. We are called to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our proper mission. Just doing what we are entrusted with by obedience is enough to become holy.

Will the Holy Spirit who urged us to carry out a mission ask us to abandon it after a few years? The Holy Father is asking us a very serious question. "Are we not tempted to relegate pastoral engagement or commitment in the world to second place as if these are "distractions" along the path to growth in holiness and interior peace?"

Pope Francis is so down to earth in his exhortation. "Anything done out of anxiety, pride or the need to impress others will not lead to holiness...our challenge today is to show that everything we do has evangelical meaning and identifies us all the more with Jesus Christ."

Often we are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and increasing noise filled not with joy but with discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. In such situation how can we find a little personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God? The Pope says "Finding that space is painful, but it is always fruitful" The business of our day should not let us miss that personal contact with God. When we are so very much involved in our own family matters, the latest technological devices and the worldly attractions that provide us with entertainment or ephemeral pleasures, we come to resent our mission, our apostolate, our assistance. Then our commitment grows slack and our generous and ready spirit of service begins to flag. This will denature our spiritual experience.

"We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes. In this way every minute of our lives can be a step along the path to growth in holiness". (GE 31)

Let us take seriously our task, our call to holiness! It's not a choice or an option. It's command and a demand?

Let us accompany each other in this journey of holiness.

Yours affectionately,



*Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial*