



XXVI/ 7

December 2018

*My dearest Sisters,*

*Affectionate greetings from the Provincial house*

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20 ). Always giving thanks for everything - no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation. Thanksgiving - the giving of thanks - to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of every Christian. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others.

Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness. An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural out flowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, “Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving” (Psalm 147:7). St. Paul wrote, “Be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous person.

As we come to the close of 2018, let us express our profound gratitude to God, for He has bestowed on us countless blessings during this year. We recall with gratitude specially His continued presence and power in our life, the maternal presence of our Blessed Mother, the people who touched our life, all our collaborators and benefactors, all whom we serve, all the material blessings he gave us and even the trials and unpleasant events we experienced . Let us translate our thanksgiving into thanks living.



## -----LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS -----

### STRENNA - 2019 - So That My Joy May Be In You (Jn. 15: 11) Holiness for you, too.....

Our beloved Rector Major Fr. Ángel Fernandez Artime goes on to say that the presentation of the Strenna 2019 "is a magnificent opportunity to be in harmony with the summons the Holy Father addresses in the Apostolic *Gaudete et exultate*, which has much to do with our Salesian charism. Don Bosco was a great teacher in this sense, with the ability to inspire and accompany his children on the paths of daily holiness." The document presented to the Salesian world consists of nine paragraphs. In the seventh, the Rector Major insists on an essential reality of holiness and he does it through a question: "what does 'holiness for you too' mean?" It is an exciting topic that this question offers, and even more exciting is the answer to each of the Salesian Family members. "Holiness is not an "extra", an optional and a goal only for some. It is life to the full, according to God's plan and gift. It is therefore a path of humanization." Daily sanctity has become a reality in the lives lived to the full in the Salesian charism. "What is important is to be holy, not to be declared as such," emphasizes the Rector Major. "The canonized saints are like the façade of a church; but the church contains many precious treasures inside, which however remain invisible."



St. Francis Xavier was one of the co-founders of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus), along with St. Ignatius of Loyola, Blessed Peter Favre, and four other men. The Jesuits focused on evangelization throughout the world, and also participated in the Counter-Reformation. Because of their vow of obedience and willingness to spread the Word to remote areas of the world, Francis Xavier was sent first to the Portuguese areas in India. His first foreign mission as a Jesuit was to reform and strengthen the Catholic virtues which were seen to be in decline among the people there. Francis Xavier was a missionary extraordinaire. He is widely regarded as the greatest missionary since St. Paul due to the sheer number of people he converted and lands he traveled. Francis Xavier took the message of Christ to the East into areas that had little to no experience with Christianity before. In a short span of only 10 years from 1542 - 1552, Francis Xavier managed to visit multiple countries; his estimated number of converts during that time are in the 40,000 - 50,000 people. As Francis reached his decision, the text of Genesis 12:1 crossed his mind: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." That verse gave him a prophetic inkling of the unanticipated direction his life would take. He did this extraordinary service for the Church, and for this, he is named the "Apostle of the Indies" and Patron of the Propagation of Faith and foreign missions. Let his life be an inspiration for all of us.

## **BL. PHILIP RINALDI -5<sup>th</sup>**

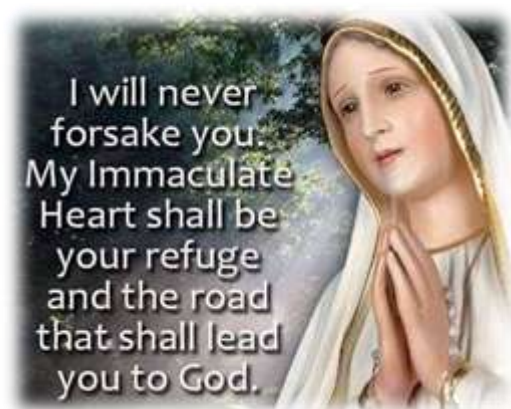
Bl. Phillip Rinaldi was born on May 28, 1856 in Piedmont, Italy. He met Don Bosco when he was just five years old and intuitively recognized that he was a man with a great mission.

At the age of 22, he entered the Salesian Order at the end of a tremendous vocational struggle, and even before making his vows he was made assistant novice master and was placed in charge of those with late vocations. He was ordained a priest in 1882. He soon became the Salesian provincial superior in Spain, where he opened many new houses and then served as vicar-general of the Salesians before becoming the Rector Major in 1922, Don Bosco's third successor. His humble and quiet leadership of the order – he preferred to remain in the background of events, unnoticed in the crowd -- combined with his tremendous saintly virtue and apostolic zeal, and a healing miracle attributed to him at the end of the Second World War, prompted his cause for canonization. He died on December 5, 1931 in Turin, and was beatified on April 29, 1990 by Pope John Paul II. “What must you do to have life? Before all else, the first thing you have to do is pray for courage every day to carry the cross the Lord has assigned you. Then let each of you do your own work really well, the work proper to your state, as God wants it, and according to your condition.” - Blessed Philip Rinaldi. May God grant us the grace to acquire the same spirit of Bl. Philip Rinadi and let us also offer our prayers for the volunteers of Don Bosco on their feast day.

## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of Her unique role in history as the Mother of God. That is, She received the gift of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception. Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, She is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in Her holiness and Her purity, in Her willingness to accept the Plan of God for Her. Every person is called to recognize and respond to God's call, to their own vocation, in order to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfill the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time. Mary's “Let it be done to me according to Thy Word,” in response of the Angel Gabriel's greeting is the response required of all Christians to God's Plan.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary, and to recognize with greater clarity, the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission that he and only he can fulfill. Mary always leads us to Christ. She is the one who shows us how to live lives of holiness. Let us ask her help and support in all that we do.



## BE BORN IN US AGAIN – CHRISTMAS

The Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world.

Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come, thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings. As we see baby Jesus in the manger we reflect on God's way being a way of gentleness and tenderness.

God's way is not one of violence but gentleness. There is a lack of goodness and love in the world but God is tender and loving. As we look on baby Jesus in the manger we see that he is the answer to today's problems. Instead of violence, in baby Jesus in the manger we see gentleness. Instead of hatred, in baby Jesus in the manger we see tenderness. Instead of selfishness, in baby Jesus in the manger we see love for us. Let us ask baby Jesus to help us to be gentle, tender and loving with those around us as he was in the manger. Jesus in the manger, you give us hope.



In the darkness of our world, your light has shown. Your coming in gentleness encourages us to hold out the hand of reconciliation, to help one another, to work for peace. We remember the message of the angels; "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace". Baby Jesus; help us to be people of peace and to spread peace everywhere we go. Let us pray now for peace. Why did God who is almighty and all-powerful become small and powerless as a baby? Quite simply, out of love for us. God became human so that we might become more like God.

## ST. STEPHEN – 26<sup>th</sup>

Saint Stephen's love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob. His love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him. Love inspired him to reprove those who erred, to make them change. Love led him to pray for those who stoned him, to save them from punishment. Saint Stephen's love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob. His love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him. Love inspired him to reprove those who erred, to make them change. Love led him to pray for those who stoned him, to save them from punishment.

Stephen's death does not dispel the mystery of suffering, but his efforts to identify his pain with that of Jesus suggests that our lack of understanding does not for that reason render suffering folly. There is meaning here even if we fail to comprehend. Jesus' suffering was a vehicle for salvation. Our sufferings, united to Christ's, are likewise a force for good. Suffering has something to do with love. "Jesus is the reason for the season," we often hear. This is true. He is the reason for life and the reason to give our lives without reserve.

## HOLY FAMILY - 31<sup>st</sup>

We honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly “just man.” Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. The house of Nazareth is a school of prayer where we learn to listen, to meditate, to penetrate the deepest meaning of the manifestation of the Son of God, drawing our example from Mary, Joseph and Jesus. We are invited to learn in the "School of Nazareth" and, in imitation of the Holy Family, become a domestic church. We are invited into a domestic kenosis, learning to love, pray and grow in holiness in the School of Nazareth.

## ----- **RECALLING EVENTS** -----

### **CONGRATULATIONS & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS**

Hearty Congratulations and assurance of prayers from all the sisters, to our Salesian brothers who will be ordained to priesthood in the coming days. May Jesus, the High Priest and Good Shepherd grant each one of them the grace to be priests according to His heart.

### **NDF MEET – GUWAHATI**

The Annual NDF Meet is being held at Auxilium, Guwahati high lighting the theme “**EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**” from 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Srs. Agnes Fernandez, Rosy Lopez & Lizy Esson will be participating in the same from our province.

### **NATIONAL BOSCOREE**

The 13<sup>th</sup> National BOSCOREE will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 at Don Bosco Nashik. From our Province Scouts and Guides from Bangalore, Nandigama and Secunderabad are getting ready for the same. I wish all the participants: staff, students and sisters a very fruitful and enriching experience. May it help everyone for their integral growth as God-fearing and responsible citizens of India in the spirit of Don Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello.

### **ANNUAL RETREATS**

Kindly keep aside all your usual commitments and prepare yourselves for this important time of personal and community renewal.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
10 - 17 January 2019	Fr. Anil Dev IMS
05 - 12 February 2019	Fr. James Mathew SDB
23 - 30 April 2019	Fr. T. C. George SDB
16 - 23 May 2019	Fr. Alex Kalathikattil SDB

### **FORMATION MEETING**

Sr. Maria Nieves Rebozo and her team will visit our province from 08 -11 March 2019. They will present the Guidelines for the formation period of temporary vows. Their programme is here below: Let us pray that these meetings may bear abundant fruit in our journey of formation.

- 07 March : Arrival at Bangalore Airport from Chennai
- 08 - March : Meeting with the Provincial councilors – Provincial House, Bangalore
- 09- 11 March : Meeting with the Animators & Formators Provincial House, Bangalore
- 12 – 13 March : Meeting with the Juniors- Provincial House, Bangalore,
- 14 March : Meeting with the novices Sacred Heart Training Center Novitiate
- 15 March : Meeting with the Aspirants & Postulants
- 16 March : Departure to Mumbai

### **PRAYERS REQUESTED**

- ❖ For the good health of our dear Sr. Lilly Chinnappan who is recovering after the surgery
- ❖ For all the urgent needs of the province

### **CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS**

- To dear Sr. Teresita P Thomas. at the passing away of her dear nephew of Mr. Sandesh (38) on 08 November 2018
- To dear Sr. Alice Philip at the demise of her paternal uncle Mr. M. Devasy (78) on 14 November 2018.
- To Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal Provincial, and sisters of ING at the passing away of Sr. Mary Mampilly on 21 November.
- To Dear Sr. Shanty Pulickal at the loss of her beloved father Mr. Joseph Pulickal (79) on 23 November 2018.
- To Fr. Kuruvachira Jose, Provincial, and his Confreres of IND Dimapur at the passing away of Fr. Peringalathu Joseph (PM) (63) on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- To our dear Mother General, Councilors and all the Sisters in the Generalate, Rome over the demise of Sr. De Vietro Francesca (70) – Secretary to Superior General on 30 November, 2018 at 09.45 p.m. in the Generalate.
- To dear Sr. Sheeja Joseph at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Mathew on 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 2018.

- To dear Sr. Bala Savarimuthu at the sudden demise of her cousin sister Mrs. Arogyamary (40) on 06th December 2018.

*Wishing you Joyful Christmas and a Grace filled New Year*

With assurance of prayers  
*Yours affectionately*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob  
Provincial*

*May baby Jesus bless and keep you, May all your sorrows disappear  
and may your happiness double up.*

