



Provincial Circular - INK

*Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Bangalore*



XXV/2

July 2017

My Dear sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings from the Provincial House, Bangalore!

“ To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement .“

– St. Augustine of Hippo –

The *Strenna* of this year reminds us that **“Every Home a school of life and of love”**.

The **Triennial Evaluation** is an **experience of encounter which forms and transforms**

The priority we have set for our province in the coming years is **“Passion for Christ and Compassion for Humanity”**.

The above mentioned themes together with our immediate and remote preparation for the Silver Jubilee of the province is an appropriate time to reflect little deeper about the renewal of our own personal and community life together with the mission. Hence this month I would like to reflect with you about the Consecration we have made to God and the need for a responsible and creative commitment.

An authentic renewal of consecrated life and a revitalization of its mission arise out of a healthy and lively spirituality. We see in our world a thirst for the sacred and a longing for spirituality, for meaning, and for transcendence. On the other hand, too much confidence in ourselves, in power, in technology, and in wealth moves us far away from the ultimate reality. In our world, new idols are being adored that prevent the adoration of the one and true God.

Both in the Church and in consecrated life, the secular environment also favours a tendency toward idolatry that is expressed in a cult of the media, of the powerful, of institutions, customs, ritualism, and laws. This makes conversion to the one and only Absolute and Necessary difficult. It also makes passion for God and for the Reign of God difficult. The challenge of a deep experience of God and of a passion, which is mission-oriented, innovative, and prophetic, is seen today as conversion to the living God. Hunger for God nourishes our journey, and mission gives

meaning to our Christian and consecrated vocation. Moreover, we should see that the new experiences and forms of spirituality are not only fruits of human searching, but also true calls and challenges of the Spirit for a society and humanity that have not found the paths of transcendence but still eagerly search for the mysterious face of God (VC 84).

The thirst for God and a healthy spirituality for our times, together with an idolatrous and secular tendency, offer us the opportunity to purify our vision of what is religious and to find new modes of expression, thus living out our passion for the God of the Covenant. Consecrated life will recover its identity if it appears and acts as a witness to God, as an announcer of God's reign and if it makes use of serious spiritual means to listen intelligently and empathetically to the sentiments of the human heart. It will thus offer services of spiritual maternity to our contemporaries who need them. Witness to the true God also demands that consecrated persons be prepared to risk, in the extreme case, their own lives, even unto martyrdom (VC 86). This situation offers us new opportunities for evangelical creativity in announcing the Risen Jesus.

A spirituality that is able to face as an equal challenges and expectations of the men and women of our times must be nourished with daily, prayerful listening to the Word. We need to strengthen ourselves to meet the demands of the Paschal Mysteries that we celebrate daily, to insert ourselves in the not always easy or defined pathway of God's people in this world and to enter into a welcoming dialogue that is capable of discerning the utopias and wounds of our present humanity. Only by using this experience of life in the Spirit as a point of departure can we encourage and animate a new epoch in the history of the coming of the reign of God and in the history of consecrated life. According to different cultural and religious contexts, this spirituality can place more emphasis on elements of interiority or historic commitment, but it can never falter in its continuous search for a dynamic balance between these two perspectives. By encountering God, we encounter a great love for the human being especially the "little ones" and the frailest; by encountering the poor and the wounded we are moved in our deepest being and our eyes see in them an image of God, even if disfigured and scorned. Inspired by the person of Jesus Christ and influenced by the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello let us **Broaden the Vision in order to be with the young, missionaries of hope and joy.**

CELEBRATIONS -----

ST. THOMAS – THE APOSTLE OF INDIA

St. Thomas the Apostle of India, is certainly a victim of man's tendency to highlight the negative rather than focus on the positive. We tend to proclaim a failure and set aside the victory. Thomas' scepticism earned for himself the name of Doubting Thomas for all ages and yet he never earned the recognition of being the only character in the Bible to call Jesus, "God." Jesus said, "Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in

response, “My Lord and my God!” When Thomas had gone beyond his doubt and had the courage to rejoin the other apostles, the Lord Jesus made his presence known to him. Then Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” The secret of Thomas finding his faith is by rejoining the other apostles. We, too, find our faith in Jesus when we join in the community of His church. Through the gift of faith we, too, proclaim that Jesus is our personal Lord and our God. Do you believe in God’s word and the power of the Holy Spirit?

MARIA GORETTI

Maria Goretti’s firm resolve to never commit a sin is what led her to give her life instead of submit to a sin against chastity. In the absence of her firm resolve, the story’s ending would be much less beautiful. St. Maria’s story reminds us of the power of a firm resolve, true, but her resolve did not come about from a simple one-time decision. She lived out her decision everyday and constantly renewed her love for Jesus in small sacrifices. Pope Benedict XVI told the young people once during the annual World Youth Day audience in Rome, that, if we do not learn to say “little ‘no’s” we will never be able to say the “big no”. Clearly, Maria was no stranger to small ‘no’s. Let this be an inspiration for our daily life.

BL. MARIA ROMERO

On 7th July we celebrate the feast of our Blessed Maria Romero Meneses. She was a modern-day social reformer who brought about a “revolution of charity” in Costa Rica. She began to understand her purpose in life — to encourage social development by helping wealthy people see how they could change the lives of poor people. She gathered resources and established recreational centres and food distribution organizations. Maria knew that she was participating in God’s work, so she had every confidence that her efforts at social development would grow.

Bl. Maria Romero Meneses, you brought about a revolution of charity in Costa Rica in the 1970s--pray for us that we too may do our part to wake up the world!

MARIAN MONTH

As every year, July 15th – August 15th we commemorate Marian month in our Province. It is a time in which we try to reflect on the Marian dimension of our life and to experience the presence of Mary as in Valdocco and in Mornese. May all the spiritual activities and initiatives enable us and our young people to go beyond devotion to imitation and become Mary like in our life. I am sure you have already received the Marian practices in order to prepare yourselves well. As we celebrate 100 years of Fatima apparition let us make this Marian month a memorable experience with our Blessed Mother.

STS. JOACHIM & ANNA

Sts. Joachim and Anne – reflect something of that wisdom in which so many respects they paved the way for the One who was to come. Their simplicity of faith, their hope, their joy in the Lord, their love for one another, their fidelity towards God and towards each other, shaped and fashioned their own child, Mary, and in doing so, shaped the Ark that was to bear God’ Word-made-flesh. Mary was able and willing to say Yes to God because of the wisdom and influence of her parents. We are shaped and fashioned by the lives of our own parents. May these saints be an inspiration to all the parents to mould their children in faith and love.

ST. ALPHONSA

The feast is celebrated on 28th July. The striking aspects of St. Alphonsa's life were her childlike simplicity and her identification with the Crucified Christ. She had lofty esteem for the passion of Christ and was eager to fulfill in her body what was lacking in the affliction of Christ. She has held up before a questioning world, her conviction of the ultimate triumph of resignation to the Will of God and her tremendous faith in the redeeming value of suffering - physical and mental - endured on behalf of Christ. The keynote of her life was *death to self and life to Christ* and in Christ. St. Alphonsa stands as a challenge to the modern world who deplores their grief and miseries. She was meant by the Lord to teach us in this pleasure intoxicated age this truth: 'unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and decay, it cannot bear any fruit' and that 'he who does not carry his cross and follow our Crucified Master is not worthy of Him'.

IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

July 31st reminds us the feast of the Founder of the Society of Jesus. He centred his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity. The goal of the spiritual life, as Ignatius conceived it, is to "choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me."• This is a dynamic goal. We are to choose - freely unite ourselves with God. Mostly this means that we are to join with God in active work in the world. It teaches us how to find God in the present moment - in the relationships, challenges, frustrations, and feelings that we are experiencing today. The tools and methods of Ignatian spirituality instils in us habits of prayerful, thoughtful reflection.

COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME BACK

We happily welcome Sr. Thresia Augustine who is back to the Province after having completed two years of Salesian Spirituality course. We wish her a fruitful mission in the formation house at Karunapuram.

BUON VIAGGIO

- We wish happy and safe journey to Sr. Jigimol Paul, Sr. Mummadi Nirmala, who will be leaving for Rome on July 9th 2017. Sr. Jigi will be participating in the Formators' course for one year and Sr. Nirmala in the 2 years Course in Salesian Spirituality.
- We wish an enriching and formative experience to our four junior sisters, Sr.Savarinathan Lawra, Sr.Yammala Udaya Kumari, Sr.Pushparaj Asha Latha, Sr.A.V.J Amala Priya who will be doing their juniorate in Auxilium Guwahati.
- Best wishes to Sr.Gummadi Devamani who will be doing her studies in Auxilium College Katpadi(INM) and Sr. Wari Rwisumwi in Auxilium College Udalguri, (ING).

ANIMATION FOR THE NEW PROVINCIALS

I will be leaving for Rome on 9th July 2017 for the animation of the New Provincials and will be back on 28th July. Keep me in your prayers that I may be enriched by this animation so as to guide the province according to the spirit of the Institute. In my absence please refer to Sr. Elizabeth Pothen, the Vice Provincial for any urgent need.

SOCIAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop for the sisters in charge of Social Ministry and VTC on 29 & 30th July (Saturday & Sunday) in Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore.

JUNIORS RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION

The juniors will have a day of recollection on 12 August followed by animation on 13 August. It is a God given opportunity to grow in one's formation and thus climb the ladder of sanctity.

ANIMATORS MEET

There will be two days animation for the animators of communities on 17 & 18th August in Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore.

INITIATION OF THE POSTULANTS

I am happy to announce that three of our Aspirants Dixy, Madonna and Supriya will be initiated into postulancy on 24 July. They will be prepared by Sr. Thresia Augustine and community with three days of Spiritual retreat. Let us pray for them that they may respond positively to Jesus till the end of their lives.

COURSES

We wish Sr. Annakutty Thekkinkattil & Sr. Eliamma Joseph a fruitful, happy and enriching experience in Dhyana Sadhana, Mysore.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

For the Father of Sr. Kallattu Kurian Shiji who met with an accident and is hospitalized.

CONDOLENCES

- To the provincial Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and sisters of Trichy Province at the demise of Rev. Sr. Abramo Teresa 88 (known as Sr. Teresina) on 27 June 2017. Many of us have known her personally and had the joy of experiencing her care and concern which was so typical of Sr. Teresina. Let us pray that the Lord may reward her with eternal life. I also express our condolences to Sr. Anna Chacko, Sr. Alice Chacko and Sr. Annakutty Joseph her nieces.
- To the Provincial Rose Ezarath and sisters of Kolkata Province at the sudden death of Sr. Teresa Ruben aged 59 on 4 July 2017.
- To dear Sr. Helen Netto at the passing away of her sister-in-law Mrs. Sherly, aged 70 on 5th July.

Let us intensify our preparation for Triennial Evaluation through our study, reflection and prayer. May Our Blessed Mother work many miracles in our lives, be our constant help and guide along our way; may she be the one to direct our steps, in the way for each of us to be signs and expressions of God's love to the marginalized young whom we encounter in our centres and for whose welfare we have committed ourselves by our religious vows and life.

Yours affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Celine Jacob". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial.