



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR - INK

Province of Sacred Heart of Jesus

XXVI/8

January 2019

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial House as we begin the New Year 2019!

We are fortunate to enter the New Year as it is a precious gift of God to us. He assures us of his presence and accompaniment in different ways and which is found in the various verses of the Scripture. Let us meditate on some of these Scripture passages personally to find strength and courage to begin this year with great enthusiasm and passion to love God more intimately and to radiate the same love to the community and the mission entrusted to us. By praying and reflecting on the Word of God we can be victorious in all circumstances of life. May the New Year bring new life to each one of us and help us to live the New Year resolutions with great constancy and resoluteness.

- ❖ “See I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name”. (Rev.3.18)
- ❖ “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done”. (Rev.22: 12)
- ❖ And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name “. (Ex. 33:17)
- ❖ This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded”. Declares the Lord.(Jer : 31; 16)

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

BL. LUIGI VARIARA – 15th

Blessed Luigi Variara was born in Viarigi, Italy, on 15 January 1875 and died on 1 February 1923 in Cucuta, Colombia. He was an apostle to the lepers in Colombia and founder of the congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary who ran the homes he set up for lepers. He was born to Pietro Variara and Livia Bussa. When he was 12 years old he entered the Salesian Oratory in Turin, while the founder Don Bosco of the Salesian Congregation, was still alive. Luigi had the privilege of meeting this living saint on one occasion, and it was an encounter that changed his life. John Bosco looked into the eyes of the young boy, and this gaze

was for Luigi a confirmation of his future Salesian vocation. "Our goal", he had told the members of the newly founded congregation, "along with that of our own personal sanctification, is to care for the leprosy patients in the hostel and in serving God by offering ourselves as victims of expiation". The Congregation was founded also with the intention of offering to women lepers the possibility to consecrate their lives to God. Fr. Variara's initiative was much criticized and misjudged by other religious institutes and even by some of his own brothers, who questioned whether this new Salesian "branch" was in accordance with the Charism of their founder. He had founded a community of "outcasts" it seemed, in the eyes of the world. Luigi, however, held firmly to God's will, and began to climb the Calvary of not being understood or accepted by those who should have been closest to him. He received, however, the consolation and relief of knowing that he was acting out of obedience, since Fr. Michael Rua, Don Bosco's first successor stood behind him and encouraged him to continue with the foundation. He had assured Mother Lozano, co-foundress of the Institute that there was "nothing to fear: if it is a work of God, it will last". Luigi Variara died on 1 February 1923 in Cucuta. The Congregation is currently present in Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Dominican Republic and Equatorial Guinea and is dedicated in the service of the poor and the sick.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF ALL CHRISTIANS – 18th – 24th

As every year the Church keeps 18th – 25th January as the week of prayer for unity in the Church. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 theme has been selected, and finds its origins in Deuteronomy. "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20) was chosen for its powerful message of promoting truth, equality and unity. The resources for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity will be sent to you in attached file.

BLESSED LAURA VICUÑA – 22nd

Blessed Laura Vicuña, whose feast we celebrate on 22 January is a shining example of Salesian education. As a happy and joyful adolescent she became a model of friendship with Jesus, of apostolic charity among her companions, and of fidelity to her daily duties. In complete trust she endured with heroic fortitude, the physical and moral sufferings which circumstances brought to her life. Faithful to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, she did not hesitate to offer herself as a victim to bring her mother back to the way of salvation.

To the youth of today Laura Vicuña is an example of purity, inspiration and courage. In the present day context, Laura Vicuña's life and death is very relevant to motivate our young people. As we celebrate her feast together with our young people this year, let us make it a special event for them.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – 24th

St Francis De Sales, whom Don Bosco has given us as our Patron Saint inspires us to live the virtues of gentleness, and docility of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Francis de Sales took seriously the words of Christ, "Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart." As he said himself, it took him 20 years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem, so overflowing with good nature and kindness was his usual manner of acting. His perennial

meekness and sunny disposition won for him the title of “Gentleman Saint.” As we celebrate his feast, let us ask him to help us to live the spirituality of Joy, Gentleness and Meekness.

REPUBLIC DAY – 26th

On 26th January India completes 70 years as a Democratic Nation. Republic day in India is celebrated every year with great pride on 26th of January to honour the Constitution of India as it came into force on the same day in the year 1950. The new Indian Constitution was sketched and approved by the Indian Constituent Assembly and decided to celebrate it on 26th of January every year as India became a republic country. As we celebrate the Republic day, let us inculcate true patriotism in our young people. Let us educate them to live a life of love, generosity and self sacrifice, which alone can bring true peace, inner joy, and contentment.

ST. JOHN BOSCO - 31st

His “total dedication” program brought the boys together for Mass, games, and nature study on Sundays. He founded night classes to give them work. Don Bosco’s approach, based on love and not corporal punishment, anticipated twentieth-century developments in child psychology. “I have promised God that until my last breath I shall have lived for my poor young people. I study for you. I work for you, I am also ready to give my life for you. Take note that whatever I am, I have been so entirely for you, day and night, morning and evening, at every moment.” he wanted it to cater to the four dimensions of the human person. A home that welcomed – catering to the emotional growth of the person;

- A playground – facilitating the physical and emotional dimensions;
- A school that educated – providing opportunity for intellectual growth;
- A church that evangelized – feeding the soul.

Let us thank God for Don Bosco and for his great vision for the young people. Let us look little deeper at the timetable of our institution and notice these four aspects that are part of the Salesian heritage. Let the celebration of the feast of our Father and Founder lead us to wholeness and Holiness as we prepare meaningfully for the feast of St. John Bosco. *Happy Feast to you!*

----- RECALLING EVENTS -----

ANNUAL RETREAT

First annual retreat begins at 5.30 p.m. on 10th January 2019 and concludes on 17th morning. Prior to the retreat there will be the seminar on Apostolic Planning as informed before. All the Animators, HMs of Andhra, Telangana, Karnataka & Economers of Kerala are expected to be in the Provincial house by 8th January Morning as the seminar begins at 09.00 A.M. May these days be days of deep study, reflection , planning and encounter with the Lord like the disciples of Emmaus. Let us accompany them with our prayers.

34th WORLD YOUTH DAY

The next international World Youth Day celebration will be held in Panama from January 22 – 27 January 2019. The theme of the event is “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me

according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) In his address, the Holy Father addresses all the young people of the world — believers and non-believers — encouraging them to discover the characteristic values of youth. It recognizes their willingness to serve others and invites them to put this attitude into practice from a Christian perspective: “To be at the service of others does not only mean to be ready for action. It means also to be in conversation with God with an attitude of listening, just like Mary. She listened to what the angel said to her and then she responded,” says the Holy Father. Let us pray and prepare our youth for this great event.

VIDES SEMINAR

Sr. Anecie Audate, General Director VIDES International and Maria Rita Pala, responsible for Project Office VIDES International will be conducting a one-day seminar for the Delegates of VIDES Bangalore and all the Sisters and educators working with them on Friday, 8th February 2019. It is an opportunity to create a privileged space for forming and training oneself to be an effective VIDES in our own locality. Listening, sharing, studying and analyzing the problems of our locality will lead us to take strategies to have a better tomorrow for all. The Seminar aims to stimulate the development of an intercontinental network of young volunteers and local operators. It will strengthen awareness of how important it is to act together in favour of human rights, democracy and intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

ANNUAL EVALUATION AND PLANNING

After the 2nd Annual Retreat 12 & 13 February 2019, there will be there will be the evaluation and planning for the new Academic year, by the Team members, Regional coordinators and the Animators of Communities. Kindly make sure that concerned members are present for the same.

CELEBRATION OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY GOLDEN & DIAMOND JUBILEE

Together with the Provincial Community Day on 14th February 2019 the province will be celebrating the golden jubilee of Srs. Constance Gomes & Mary Karimpil, diamond Jubilee of Sr. Mary Manjil and Sr. Maria Vazhappilly and 70th anniversary of the profession of our dear Sr. Lawrencia D’Silva. Thank you dear sisters for your 50, 60 & 70 years of dedicated service on behalf of the young people particularly the poorest.

PROJECT MORNESE - 2019

Sr. Joseph Sherly, Sr. Karuvelil Mary, Sr. Augustine Rosa & Sr. Mathew Teresa Rani will be participating in Project Mornese. They will leave for Rome on 17th February and will be back on 21st March 2019. We wish all of them an enriching and amazing experience as they touch the Holy grounds where the Christian Faith and Salesian Charism were born. Wish you beautiful wonderful time!

FOR A COMMON HOME IN THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE

Each of our communities will be receiving a brochure namely “*For a Common Home in the Diversity of people*” brought out by the Mission Ad Gentes Sector, Rome. The aim of this project was to propose a path of sensitization regarding the migration phenomenon in the Institute. The project began in 2002 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the departure of the first missionaries ad gentes to Uruguay, was taken up by GCXXI as a journey of awareness regarding the phenomena of human mobility in view of a conviviality of differences as the key for a new society: “It does not only deal with emigrating, but also by making room for hospitality”. *A Common Home in the Diversity of people propose to: COME CLOSE, KNOW, AND ACT in synergy with other Church and Civil Institutions present in the area. Let us try to read, reflect and act from all the materials you will receive on this theme.*

SALESIAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Our loving and prayerful greetings to Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar sdb and the province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad for the Provincial Chapter X, which will be held from 14th to 17th January with the theme : what kind of Salesians for the youth of today? Sr. Aruna Gattupalli will be participating from our province as an observer to the Chapter.

SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

Our dear Srs. Jacintha Lobo and Jincy Peter thanked each and every one for the prayers offered for the mother of Sr. Jacintha and father of Sr. Jincy Peter.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- To Dear Sr. SwarnaLatha at the loss of her maternal uncle Mr. Showry (50) on 09 December 2018.
- To Fr. Lyngkot Paul Olphindro, Provincial and Confreres of Shillong Province at the demise of Fr. Joseph Cilia (82) on 10 December 2018.
- To Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal Provincial, and sisters of ING at demise of Sr. Minj Alice (70) on 21 December 2018.
- Our prayers and condolences to Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD and the faithful of Tezpur Diocese at the departure of Bishop Emeritus Robert Kerketta SDB, DD who left this world for his eternal reward on 22 December 2018.
- To Fr. Gomes Nirmol Vincent, the Provincial of Kolkata and all the confreres at the loss

of Fr. Jose Alapurackal SDB (70) on 27 December, 2018.

- To dear Sr. Jacintha Lobo at the passing away of her beloved mother Mrs. Stella Lobo (75) on 30th December 2018.
- To dear Sr. Jincy Peter at the demise of her loving father Mr. Peter Mutholickal (88) Mutholical on 02 January 2019.
- To dear Sr. Jane Lewis at the sudden death of her sister Mrs. Stella Bais (60) on 07 January 2019.

CONCLUSION

I would like to highlight few lines from Mother General's Circular 984, in which Mother presents the Strenna of 2019. The Strenna intends to highlight the 'least visible treasure of holiness', that of 'next door holiness' as Pope Francis calls it. Holiness is not a word frequently used by young people, but it is desired because of the profound yearning of every person: to reach that horizon of transcendence and fullness that we all carry in our hearts, believers and non-believers. The proposal of holiness, the Rector Major emphasizes, is addressed to everyone: adults and young people.

For Christians in particular, *holiness* is fullness of life and synonymous with *happiness*, the beatitude that challenges every woman and every man of today and in all situations of life.

With assurance of prayers
Yours affectionately

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

WISH YOU GRACEFILLED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!! "Let us look up to the stars not down at your feet"

