



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR - INK

Province of Sacred Heart of Jesus

XXVI/11

April 2019

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

As we have reached the month of April, the end of the scholastic year we have many reasons to thank God for His accompanying presence throughout the year. I am also happy to tell you that I too have finished visiting all our communities and was able to experience the joys and challenges of the mission in person. I thank you dear sisters for your apostolic passion and hard working spirit with which the mission of the province is being carried forward. May the fervent observance of the Holy Week and the Solemnity of EASTER help us to have a deeper experience of the Risen Lord.

CELEBRATIONS

HOLY WEEK

Approaching Holy Week, we solemnly recall the suffering of Jesus. Many of us will bring our own misery to Him as an offering of love. Every tear we shed as a gift for Jesus, every heart ache and betrayal brought to Him with the intention of uniting all to His Sacred Wounds, draws us away from our own pain and into the compassion of loving Jesus for His own sake. What must Jesus have felt as His time drew near to enter fully into His Passion? Was He in mourning, lamenting and grieving over the friendships He'd made and the life He'd lived? Did He feel completely alone, knowing that even His apostles would not fully grasp the value of His death until much later? We may wonder if Jesus found comfort in the prophet's words, "I will turn their mourning into joy." He knew that suffering was meritless without the resurrection, yet His humanity did not want to undergo the unfathomable torment that was necessary for the joy, consolation, and celebration of the resurrection. We don't often realize what God is doing in our lives, much like the apostles. We can't see the fulfilment of God's promises for us when we are in the midst of an intense trial. Yet Jeremiah reminds us that joy comes in the morning and light after the dawn. It is our hope and treasure to cling to this hope when we are near despair. As the "appointed time draws near" for entering into Jesus' death, we might do well to ask Him how we can console His Heart every day from this point onward. It is our gift of gratitude for the price of love.

JOYFUL EASTER

The Easter Mystery is the foundation of Christian faith. Without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, says St. Paul, “our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” (I Corinthians 15.14) In the celebration of the three holiest days of our liturgical year, the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday), Catholics participate in moments of great joy—such as the first Mass Jesus instituted on Holy Thursday. We also participate in the profound suffering He endured on Good Friday. The culmination of these special days is the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday. It is the most powerful liturgical celebration. Christians share an experience of the mystery, beauty, and joy of Easter. Easter affirms that God’s love triumphs over death. God’s grace and mercy defeat sin.

Easter is a time to celebrate God’s love for us, a love that He definitively proves in the death and resurrection of His Son. We mediate that love to each other in our family. God calls us to reflect it to the world. Looking at this profoundly wounded world, unity and peace might seem just a dream. The Year of Mercy gives us new courage to believe that God is Love. Now we need to go back to what really matters believing in Love. Let us bring trust, forgiveness and mutual love in our communities and among our Educating community members. Let us look at the world as one family, the family of God’s children. And God is mercy, God is love.

May the power of the Risen Lord, who overcome death, every death, forever, strengthen in us the boldness to believe, hope and act so that we can build a world rid of anger, hatred and violence between different cultures and peoples and that peace and joy may reign.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Universal Church will celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. As we celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday, intensely reflect upon the abundance of this gift that God wishes to pour forth upon us. There is no limit to how much we are loved by our God of perfect mercy. On the eighth day of Easter, we should especially be aware of the fact that the floodgates of Heaven are opened to us to an unimaginable degree. Turn your eyes toward our merciful Lord and be open to all that He wishes to bestow.

Let us pray that the Lord of Mercy, help us today to begin to understand what mercy is all about. Help us to first be open to the mercy You wish to bestow upon me. As I receive Your own Divine Mercy, help me also to be an instrument of that mercy for all to see. Jesus, I trust in you.

FEAST OF MOTHER GENERAL– CELEBRATION OF WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

Let us intensify our prayers for our beloved Mother General as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the World Gratitude day on 26th April in California. As we wish our dearest Mother Yvonne and all her collaborators in the Council a very joyful Feast, we turn our gratitude into prayers together with the young people and our lay collaborators.

Feast of gratitude brings an experience of interconnectedness with everyone in the Institute. With the slogan “*I entrust them to you*”, the host Province brings to our mind our common mission and vision and of our educative mandate among the young. In fact, it is stated clearly in the Dossier for the preparation of this feast that through our mission we are called to increase in the

young the culture of encounter, of interpersonal relationships, of acceptance, respectful of the rights of all, and of human dignity, breaking down walls and building bridges. As we join the FMA World in this great celebration, may we rekindle our hearts with kindness and generosity towards everyone who is entrusted to our care in our educative mission. May the ardour of Mother Mazzarello who lived out with authenticity the “*I entrust them to you*” of our Blessed Mother be relived and replicated in our own days.

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

Formation Sector Meet:

We were privileged and blessed with the loving presence of our dear and Rev.Sr. Reboso Maria Nieves, the General Councillor for formation, Sr. Fisichella Maria and Sr.Miranda Analfreda, Team members from 07th – 16th March 2019 in the provincial house at Bangalore. On 07th noon the colourful Auxilium Band welcomed them to our province. Later they were invited to the school for a short cultural programme. The students and the staff were excited and were touched by their gentle and inspiring presence. At the end Sr. Nieves gave a short message to be grateful for the gift of education in a Salesian school and to become committed leaders of tomorrow. Indeed this visit were days of grace , Salesian formation and vocational fecundity.

From 08- 11 March the team encountered the provincial councillors, animators and formators. The document “Guidelines for the formation period of Temporary Vows” was presented. Although as an Institute, we already have secure guidelines for formation available: church guidelines, FMA Constitutions, plan of formation, “Rooted in the covenant”, as well as Guidelines for the Educational Mission, “That they may have life and have life in abundance”.

However something more specific was required that would be in dialogue with today and would also challenge the communities in which the Temporary professed sisters live the years after the novitiate until perpetual profession. This period is fundamental for the progressive building of the identity of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. These are simple guidelines directed towards practical action that every province and community can enrich and adapt according to the context, without however, neglecting fundamental elements that come from the gospel and the charism.

The six jars were beautifully and creatively decorated in the hall as the Biblical text of Mary at Cana (John 2:1-11) was the inspiring icon for the mystagogical mission of the formator, openness to the Spirit and the docility of the Temporary professed on their journey towards the gift of self to God in following Christ forever, as well as the involvement and foreseeing attention of the community that joyfully celebrates the feast of the transformation of the water into wine.

The well prepared Lectio Divina, group discussion and sharing enabled all to understand the spirit of this new document and the way we are invited to live it in our communities.

12th and 13th were dedicated to the young sisters. The document was presented to them and the two days of discussions and sharing helped them to value their vocation, appreciate the accompaniment and the need to respond to the challenges of the mission, integrating a deep encounter with the God of life, listening and encountering with the Word and with Jesus in the Eucharist. The meeting with the Novices, Postulants and Aspirants were moments of joy and excitement appreciating the Salesian Charism and being enriched in their vocational journey. She reminded them to be open to the Holy Spirit who is the principal formator.

In the name of the province I express sincere thanks to Sr. Reboso Nieves Sr. Fisichella Maria and Sr.Miranda Analfreda, for this beautiful encounter during which the contents of the new

document is presented to the different groups with great dedication and commitment. A million thanks and God bless you! We will accompany you in as you continue your mission in the other provinces.

My sincere gratitude to Sr. Monica and community at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore for Your spirit of hospitality and care shown to the animators, Junior sisters, Postulants and Aspirants during these days. I also would like to thank all the sisters who took up the responsibilities of liturgy and other preparations.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

- ❖ **Holiness in the Institute:** On 8 March 2019 Mother General Sr. Yvonne Reungoat announced that our Institute is initiating the process for the beatification and canonization of Mother Rosetta Marchese, the former Superior General of our Institute during the years 1981-84. We rejoice with the whole Institute for this great gift of holiness in our family. This is an invitation to all of us to strive after holiness as Rector Major has exhorted us in the Strenna of the year “ Holiness for you too”
- ❖ I am happy to inform you that Sr. Kasu Sleeva Showrilu will be going to Sri Lanka to give her service to the young people there. We wish her a fruitful mission and assure her of our prayers.
- ❖ Sr. Jaculine Selvi will be participating in a course on consecrated life from 30 April – 30 May 2019 in Sanyasa Bangalore.
- ❖ Srs. Johnson Siljo Mary, Savarinathan Laura A, Yammala Udaya Kumari, Crasta Leena, Vennila Dominic and Pushparaj Asha Latha will attend the II Phase of the II Novitiate in the provincial house and DBRC, Bannerghatta Bangalore from 15th April to 15th May which will be followed by the retreat . We accompany our dear sisters with prayers as they intensely prepare themselves for their final commitment.
- ❖ The junior sisters are expected to be in the provincial house for the renewal programme on 10th May 2019. The session will begin at 9.30 a.m. This will be followed by the annual retreat and renewal of the vows. They can return back by 24th evening.

AUDITING OF SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

Prayerful wishes to Sr. Saly Abraham and all the local Economers as they get ready for the annual auditing of accounts.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the three communities of Guntur and Palluruthy and the Provincial House for their hospitality and generous availability.

VOCATION CAMPS

I thank you all sincerely for the efforts you have put in as individuals and communities during this academic year to promote vocations. I take this opportunity to thank the regional coordinators Sr. Kamala & Sr. Vijaya Gudime for AP & TS region, Sr. Ashalatha & Sr.Selvi for

Karnataka region & Sr. Marietta & Sr. Annie Joseph for Kerala region and the other sisters in charge of vocation in the communities who have made a lot of efforts to coordinate and plan for the vocation camps. Let us pray for the success of the camps.

AP & TS: April 11 - 15 in Uppal

Karnataka: April 8 - 13 in Maradiyur

Kerala: April 8 - 12 in Palluruthy

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these communities for all the arrangements made and for their generous availability to welcome the young people to the community.

GENERAL ELECTION

As active and honest citizens of our beloved nation, let us exercise our adult franchise responsibly and encourage others to do the same. Let us intensify our prayers that God may give us God fearing and dedicated poor friendly leaders who will uphold the dignity and lead the destiny of every citizen of our country to justice, peace and brotherhood.

RETREAT- III Batch

Let us remember in our prayer Rev.Fr. C.M Jose INC, the retreat preacher and all the participants of the retreat. Due to the election in Kerala the retreat will begin only on 24th morning at 9.a.m instead of 23rd evening. Except those who are voting others are expected to be in the Provincial house on 23rd as informed earlier. Departure is on 30th April.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- To Fr.K.M Jose and the confreres of INM province at the passing away of Bro. Meril Rodrigo SDB on 3rd March 2019.
- To Sr.Rose Ezareth and the INC province at the loss of Sr.Catherine Das on 8th March 2019.
- To Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and all the sisters of INT Province at the loss of Sr. Gonsalves Dorothy FMA (91) on 30 March 2019.
- To our dear Sr.Shiny and her dear ones at the demise of her beloved father Mr. Jose (73) on 2nd april 2019.
- To Sr. Lilly Arangassery at the passing away of her aunt Mrs.Rosy (73) on 5th April 2019.

CONCLUSION

If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter with new joys and new promises.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

*Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial*





