



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK
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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
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XXVIII/3

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My dearest Sisters, Loving and Prayerful Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

As we continue our journey towards GC XXIV let us pause this month on the Scripture verse (Jn. 2:3)

THEY HAVE NO WINE

The second significant statement from the narrative of the wedding feast of Cana is “***They have no wine***”. In these words we recognize Mary playing the role of ***an intercessor***.” It was a perfect prayer, humble and trustful, reflecting the needs of the people of her day who were not the rich and powerful. Mary names the need and she takes the initiative to find a solution She expressed her desire in a clear yet tactful way. But the answer of Jesus seemed a definite refusal: Woman why turn to me? Did she repeat the statement again? Did she plead with Jesus? We do not know. John does not mention anything further except Mary’s next act.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen while commenting on the Wedding of Cana says: “one of the most amazing features of this marriage is that it was not the wine servant, whose business it was to service the wine, who noticed the shortage, but rather Our Blessed Mother.(She notes our needs before we ourselves feel them.) She made a very simple prayer to her Divine Son about the empty wine pots when she said: “They have no wine.” Hidden in the words was not only a consciousness of the power of her Divine Son, but also an expression of her desire to remedy an awkward situation. Perhaps she would have already seen Our Lord work some miracles in secret. For if there had not already been a consciousness of the truth that He was the Son of the Omnipotent God, she would not have asked for a miracle.”

Mary persists even after the mystifying answer of her Son, “Woman, how does this concern affect me?” Even in the face of this sharp retort, Mary continues to trust in the power of the word of Jesus; she says to the waiters, “Do whatever he tells you.”

By saying ‘they have no wine’ Mary expresses ***her concern*** to him about the sad situation at the



wedding hall, expecting him to solve it. His mother is expecting an extraordinary action from her son, since Jesus had no wine at his disposal. The moment she noticed the “lack”, she did not make a noise, or talk about it to people around. Silently she approached the **SOURCE** and whispers into his ears “they have no wine” She did not suggest any solution. She only made known the problem. Perhaps she knew that Jesus would see to it.

This is the surrender that is expected of us too. We need not suggest to Jesus what he should do. Just say what is our problem and then leave it to him to do what he thinks is best. This is total surrender to God’s will. This is living faith in action.

Mary plays marvellously well her woman’s role as an *intuitive mother* who notices and *with foresight* tries to avoid the embarrassment of the wedding party. “They have no wine.” They are missing the essential element at the wedding party. In the East, wine at a feast was essential. The rabbis taught, “Without wine there is no joy.” Again, hospitality was a sacred duty in the East; it would be terribly humiliating for the bride and groom to run out of provision. It was a gross discourtesy and a shameful humiliation to have to admit that you had not provided enough wine for the guests who came to a marriage feast at your house. In fact, ‘we have extra-biblical evidence that a family guilty of such a lack of foresight could actually be fined. And even greater problem would be the symbolism. To run out of wine would be tantamount to admitting that neither the guests, nor the bride and groom, were happy. It would be terribly embarrassing!’ The family is facing a big problem. Mary the intuitive and compassionate woman is there to solve their problem.

Our life too is full of problems, from the beginning until the end. Often, when we try to resolve our problems on our own, our problems get worse and worse. Having a mother like Mary we know where we should go, where we need to lead our people.

One of the titles for Mary is “Undoer of Knots”, which Pope Francis promoted. Knots, here, mean problems. We all have knotty problems in our lives. Mother Mary can help us, she earnestly desires to help us, but is waiting for us to ask her believing in her power of intercession.

There are times in the lives of each of us when we feel that we are running on empty. We are depleted or disappointed or discouraged, or all of the above. At these moments we are invited by the Gospel to come to Christ and to name the need; to say, “Lord, I have no wine.” Fr. Robin Ryan CP says: “Sometimes when we do it we may feel as if our prayer is greeted with silence, or even with a stinging retort from the Lord, “How does your concern affect me?” Yet we must name the need and persist in our trust in the power of Christ’s word in our lives. We must believe that, as one commentator on this Cana story puts it, “Mary’s strong impulse to call for relief corresponds to God’s own dearest desire” (Elizabeth Johnson, *Truly Our Sister*).

We too face such troubled times as we journey through life. Our zeal and enthusiasm may be running short. Our fervour and faith might have slackened. Our prayer life might have become lukewarm, passion and commitment might have disappeared from our apostolic life. Mother Mary will surely notice these lacks if we turn to her with daughter – like faith and trust. She will surely report to Jesus ‘They have no fervour/no passion/ no enthusiasm. We

will definitely experience the change of water into wine; lethargy into dynamism; lukewarm into fervour. Let our attachment to Mary grow during this Marian month and as we prepare ourselves for the forthcoming Chapter.

This gospel also challenges us to emulate Mary in her sensitivity to the needs around her, her courage to name the need and to take initiative to find a solution. Who are the people in our lives who *have no wine*? Who are those who have been depleted by life, whose hearts have been emptied of hope? Who are the people in our city and nation, and across the world who have little to hope for in this life? We should be concerned. We should know. None of us can solve all of the problems of the people we love and certainly of many people in desperate need in our world. For all of us, watching the news about the situations in our country and our world may feel hopeless and helpless; we may suffer the inability to reach out. We feel so limited in what we can do. But, like Mary, we are called to be sensitive to the needs of others, to have the courage to name the need even when it is unpopular, and to take initiative to find solutions when and where we can.

The choice made by Mary, shows the courage of her faith, since until that moment Jesus had worked no miracles, either in Nazareth or in his public life. At Cana, the Blessed Virgin once again showed her total availability to God. At the Annunciation she had contributed to the miracle of the virginal conception by believing in Jesus before seeing him; here, her trust in Jesus' as yet unrevealed power causes him to perform his "first sign", the miraculous transformation of water into wine. In that way she precedes in faith the disciples who, as John says, would believe after the miracle: Jesus "manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn. 2:11). Thus, Mary strengthened their faith by obtaining this miraculous sign.

In our journey of accompaniment we too must notice the problems facing our young people and all those whom we serve and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit we must know where to find the solution.

Mary came to Jesus for help. She had learned to rely upon His strength and wisdom. Like any widow, Mary leaned hard on her firstborn son. So, Mary, knowing the power of Jesus, came to Him and tried to prod Him into action. Only two times in the gospels is Mary attempting to influence Jesus as His mother. At both times she gets unpleasant remark from Jesus. So it seems to us. But Mary is not worried, nor is she hurt by the words of Jesus. She believes and moves towards the next step for solution to the problem. Neither discouragement nor hurt should stop us from moving ahead to find solution to our problems.

May we be blessed with unwavering faith and trust to work miracles in our lives and in the lives of our people through the intercession of Mary! Like Mary let us also become intercessors for the needs of our people and the whole world.

----- CELEBRATIONS -----



ST. JOHN MARY VIANNEY – 4th

The significance and the beauty of Saint John Vianney, the parish priest who spent 41 years serving the people of Ars, France, is not because he left us an abundant collection of brilliant theological writings. Nor is he noted for founding a religious order or being the visionary behind some great spiritual movement in the life of the Church. The significance and beauty of his life is to be found in his simple witness of being a faithful, zealous, and loving parish priest. As we celebrate the feast of St. John Mary Vianney on the 4 August, let us pray and support all the priests, that they may be faithful to their commitment.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION – 6th

The top of a mountain is a natural place for encountering God. It is small wonder then that in the Bible God often chooses a mountain top to reveal Himself and His plans. It was on Mount Sinai that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. Jesus gave his first teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. He often retired to the mountain at night to pray. He was crucified on Mount Calvary and ascended to heaven from Mount Olivet. The Transfiguration was the mountain-top experience of the apostles which prepared them for their future trials. The Mass is our mountain-top experience which prepares us for the trials of our day. The Mass is not a transfiguration but a transubstantiation, in which bread and wine are transformed into the glorious Risen Jesus. And in the joy and consolation of Communion we say with Peter, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.” And we do not want to leave. But it is not to be. Soon we will hear the words, “The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” So we pick up our cross and leave to face the trials of the day. But having been to the top of the mountain we know that “nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

MARY’S ASSUMPTION & INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA - 15th

Mary’s greatness lies in the fact that she was humble before God and surrendered herself to God. Her words to the angel at the annunciation are words that we need to meditate on a great deal, ‘Let it be done to me according to your word.’ Surrendering of herself to God meant a giving of herself day after day, moment after moment as time went on. We can see evidence for this in the Gospels: at the presentation of Jesus in the temple, Simeon told her that her soul would be pierced with sorrow; when Jesus was twelve years old the family had a misunderstanding over why Jesus got lost for three days. Mary once again learned more about surrendering to God as Jesus told her that he had to be about his Father’s business. Because Mary surrendered herself so much to God, God filled her with his presence, just as God fills us with His Spirit when we surrender ourselves to Him.

As Our Nation celebrates its 73rd Independence Day to commemorate the birth of a free and democratic nation. Let us recall the words of Abdul Kalam, our former President recalling our own great responsibility towards our mission place where we deal with, our society where we



live and above all our country with the desire of peace harmony and the good of all people. **“If a country is to be corruption-free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher”.**

BIRTHDAY OF DON BOSCO

Don Bosco a Saint of Joy. He was convinced that one who seeks to do God’s Holy will never have reason to be sad and unhappy and will discover true JOY in one’s life. May we discover the truth of Don Bosco’s conviction in the course of our lives!! May the saint of JOY teach us to be truly JOYFUL as we celebrate the 203rd birthday of our Father and Founder.

BIRTHDAY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

“Service to God and Humanity” A critical look into the life of John the Baptist indicates that he did not live for himself. He was rather dedicated to working for God and others. He was always found at his duty post preaching and baptizing. John the Baptist was not ready to compromise the truth even before threat of the authorities. This was why he was arrested and executed thereafter. As we celebrate the solemnity of John the Baptist let us be eager to learn from him especially learn to be detached from material concern and be attached to divine realities. Let us learn to be humble, truthful and also be at the utmost service of others like John the Baptist.

BL. MARIA TRONCATTI

August 25 is the date designated for the liturgical memorial of Blessed Maria Troncati. This great missionary in Ecuador’s Amazonian forests had become ‘doctor’ for both bodies and souls. While she assisted people, she also evangelized, proclaiming and testifying to everyone of the Father’s infinite love and the motherly tenderness of the Help of Christians. Whether she was sewing or attending the sick, she always sowed the Word of the Gospel in terms of intimacy between people. The Word came to them as a doctor curing wounds and afflictions of heart and soul. 24, 2012 by the delegate of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Angelo Amato, in the presence of almost all the bishops of Ecuador and Mother Yvonne Reungoat. Let us ask her to intercede for us so that we may be true evangelizers wherever we are.

BI. ZEPHYRINO NAMUNCURA

Zephyrino Namuncura, was eighth of the 12 children of the chief of the Araucano Indians of the Argentine Pampas, Chief Manuel Namuncura. As a child he was given to the Salesian Priest, Fr. Domenico Milanese to be brought up in the white man’s religion. Zephyrino was educated at the Salesian Mission School in Buenos Aires. At the age of seventeen he went to the seminary where he studied hard enough to become second in the class. He also grew up in virtue and was often found in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This saintly seminarian died on the morning of May 11 at the age of eighteen, surrounded by several of the brothers who were praying for him.



Zepherino was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI in 1972. He was beatified on November 11, 2007 in Chimpay, Argentina by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Salesian of Don Bosco, who was then Vatican Secretary of State

----- **COMMUNICATIONS** -----

FOUNDATION DAY OF THE INSTITUTE

To all our Sisters who will be making their first and final profession on the 5th August I extend our prayers and warmest congratulations especially of ING and INS. A good number of sisters have made profession on this beautiful day of the Foundation of our Institute. Hearty Congratulations to all the Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilarians of our province and those of FMA-India. Let us intensely prepare ourselves for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute.

INTENSIVE JUNIORATE

Two of our temporary professed Sisters Sr. Sumathi Bulla and Sr. Frinsha Francis will be joining the interprovincial Juniorate at the Provincial house at Guwahati which will begin on 13th August. We wish both of them an enriching experience in their formative journey.

THANKS & APPRECIATION

A special word of thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and community for hosting the meeting of the Animators and Economers on the 29th June – 2nd July.

ANIMATION FOR THE CHAPTER MEMBERS

August 22- 24th there will be an animation for all the Chapter members by Fr. Varghese Alangaden & Fr. Jince Kallanickal SDB. They will animate us on the Sociological and biblical perspective of the Chapter theme.

FMA PCI 2019

The FMA-PCI 2019 will be held at Auxilium Outreach, Shillong, from 20 - 23 August 2019. We send prayers ahead for this important event in the life of our Institute.

WELCOME

Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the presiding General Councillor for PCI 2019 will be arriving Shillong on 13th August for the Canonical Visitation of the Province. We extend her a very warm and sisterly welcome!

2nd ASIAN PACIFIC REGIONS CONGRESS

The Second Asian Pacific Congress of the FMA Past Pupils will be conducted from October 9 – 13, 2019 in Thailand. With the theme: “Open minded and deep listening to create hope and inspiration” Sr. Elizabeth Pothen, the province delegate for Past Pupils will participate in it.

CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS

- ✚ To Fr. Joyce Francis and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the shocking death of Fr. Thomas Augustine on 7th July 2019.
- ✚ To Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal and the Sisters of Guwahati Province at the passing away of Sr. Nunes Victoria on 17th July 2019.
- ✚ To Sr. Rose Ezrath and the sisters of Kolkata province at the demise of Sr. Cecilia Tamba on 20th July 2019.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Celine Antony at the passing away of her maternal aunt on 25th July 2019.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES

- For Sr. Anita Thomas
- Sr. Annakutty Joseph
- Sr. Lawrencia D'Silva
- Sr. Josephine Savarimuthu
- Father of Sr. Laura Albeena
- For the maternal uncle of Sr. Vijayamma Gudime &
- For the mother of Sr. Jessi Padmalatha

CONCLUSION

At Cana Mary teaches us to understand that changes arise from the heart of a believing community. She the first disciple is a model of every discipleship. Let us assume her attitudes of faith and humility to trace a new community face in the Spirit of Valdocco & Mornese.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

Wishing you

