



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK
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My dearest Sisters, Loving and Prayerful Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

“Do Whatever He tells you”

During this month let us consider how Mary herself interprets Jesus words: Does she walk away from the scene feeling sad, hurt, or rejected in any way, after hearing Jesus saying “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.”? Just the opposite: She hears Jesus words and immediately says to the servants, **“Do whatever he tells you”** (Jn. 2:5). Mary interprets Christ’s response so positively that she confidently believes Jesus is going to fulfil her request, and she tells the servants to be ready to do whatever her Son commands. She is very sure that he will not let her down nor refuse her request. She is confident that he will participate in her desire to soothe the troubled hearts of the servants who are lacking wine. She believes that he will act even though his time had not yet come.

Mary does this out of great love for the married couple, in reverence for the sanctity of marriage, and the good of those gathered in celebration. Today there is so much talk about accompaniment. We can clearly see how Mary *accompanied* the troubled family in this situation. She could have just walked away after telling Jesus. No, she does not leave it at that. Instead she goes till the end. She approaches the servants and says what to do as she is convinced that her son would do the needful. Through her example Mary teaches us how to accompany the people whom we are serving.

These words **“Do whatever he tells you”** spoken by our Blessed Mother are profound and powerful words which can easily serve as the foundation of our spiritual lives. If our Blessed Mother would have spoken anything to her Son at the foot of the Cross, what would she have said? Would she have spoken words of despair or confusion, pain or anger? No, she would have spoken the same words she spoke at the Wedding of Cana. But this time, rather than speaking these words to the servants, she would have spoken them to her Son. “My dear Son, whom I love with my whole heart, do whatever the Father in Heaven tells You.”



No matter what we face in life, our Blessed Mother and her divine Son are inviting us into this glorious command of love and obedience. They are exhorting us to stay faithful through all struggles, in good times, in difficult ones, through pain and joy. No matter what you experience in life, these words must always resound within our mind and heart. “Do whatever He tells you.” “Do whatever he tells you.” in this verse we have the golden rule of a happy and useful Christian and religious life. Do we want to know His joy, peace and blessing upon our service? Do we want our life to be well-pleasing to Him in all things? Do we want our prayers to be answered? Are we seeking fresh and enlarged fields of service - and do we need guidance? **Then we must do what He says.** If we can live in obedience to this golden rule we shall always be filled with the glory of His presence, power and blessing.

As we read the narration of the wedding feast of Cana we understand what a remarkable claim Mary makes for the Lord Jesus ““ Whatever He says, however contrary it may seem to your ideas, do it!”” How can she be so confident? Because she knows that He is the Son of God. When we do what he tells us, the outcome will be miracles of transformation, of celebration, of joy and of contentment. We should not have anything else to do than what he tells us.

Even today He tells us many things. But how does He speak? **He speaks to us AUTHORITATIVELY.** We read in Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I tell you?” If He is Lord then it is His sovereign right to dictate in our life, and what He says is the final word on any given matter. If we know Him as Lord, why do we question what He says? For what He says is invested with all the authority of what He is.

He speaks to us PERSONALLY. “Whatever HE tells YOU, do it!” He spoke personally to the servants, and the guests did not know what He had said. He speaks in the same way today. **He speaks to us COMPREHENSIVELY.** Notice the word “whatever”. He speaks to us about the little details as well as about the big problems of life -- about the wine that has run short, and other temporal things; in fact, there is no detail connected with our lives about which He does not speak to us.

He speaks to us INSTRUMENTALLY. That is, He speaks through others. How often we hear the voice of the Lord through the wise and helpful counsel of our friends! Our superiors, the members of our community, the lay collaborators, even our young people. **He speaks to us PROVIDENTIALLY.** That is, through the daily happenings and circumstances of our life, by closing one door and opening another, and by saying to us, Revelation 3:8 “I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut...” He speaks to us through what we read, what we hear, what we see.....and if we are listening we will not fail to hear His voice.

He speaks to us THROUGH HIS WORD. This is the particular way in which He speaks to us today. In John 6:63 “It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life”. There is no spirit and life in the daily news paper, the writings of our great poets or in the latest novel! The Lord supremely speaks to us in and through His Word (the Bible), and anything which we feel to be His voice to us which is contrary to His Word is certainly not His voice. **He speaks to us BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Notice in the Acts of the Apostles the constant and unerring directions that were given by the Holy Spirit to the servants of the Lord in the first century. Acts 8: 29: “Then the Spirit said to Philip “Go over to this chariot and join it.” Again Acts 10: 19 “The Spirit said to Peter, ‘Look three men are searching for you.’ Yes, the Lord speaks to us today just as definitely as He did to the servants at the marriage feast of Cana in Galilee. Are we obedient like the servants at the wedding feast of Cana?

Why does he speak to us? There are three reasons as we see it in this miracle. When the Lord Jesus said, ““ Fill.....draw.....take...”...” (verses 7 and 8), **it was for His glory.** Verse 11 tells us this, “ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” and we can be sure that whenever He speaks to us about something in our life, something He wants us to be, to do or to say, it is always for His glory. In other words, to listen to what He says and to render Him full obedience will always glorify Him.

When the Lord Jesus said, “Fill.....draw.....take...”...” (verses 7 and 8), **it was for their (the servants’) good.** How do we know? Because in verse 9 we are told that while the governor and the guests did not know about the miracle, the servants did. Is it not most likely that having seen the miracle they believed in Him? What a great spiritual blessing came to them when they heard the commandment of the Lord and obeyed Him! In Deuteronomy 10:12 and 13 we see “the decrees that I am commanding you today for your own well being.” Everything the Lord says to us is always for our good; it is always for our profit that we should obey the Lord.

When the Lord Jesus said, “Fill the jars with water,.....draw some out.....take it to the chief steward.”..(verses 7 and 8), **it was for the good of everybody else concerned.** Everybody at the feast benefited from the miracle that resulted. When the Lord speaks to us it is not only for His glory and for our good, but it is for the good of everybody whom we touch, in the home, the office or wherever we may be. How should we respond to what he says? **We should respond with PROMPT obedience.** ““ Whatever.....do it!”” They did not delay. John Bunyan the poet said, “The soul of religion is in the practice part”; that is, the doing of it. Our whole duty is to do what He says, and to do it not as a duty but as a delight.

We should respond with COMPLETE obedience. The Lord’s command was, ““ Fill...”...” (verse 7). How did they obey? “They filled them to the brim”. There is a danger of rendering to the Lord only partial obedience, but His demand is that we obey Him fully. Is He not worthy of our complete and full obedience?

We should respond with UNQUESTIONING obedience. The word is “whatever”. That means we must obey Him without any questioning or dispute. Fancy being told to fill the water pots

with water when wine was needed! Fancy being told to bear water to the governor of the feast! Yet they gave to the Lord their unquestioning obedience. Sooner or later there comes to us all the felt need of a supreme dictation - that is, of someone who will take the full responsibility of our lives and exercise His lordship over them. Our Lord Jesus offers to take that place in our life, and it is His right alone to take it. Shall we give it to Him?

Others may tell us many things. Other external voices may come to us from all directions. Our 'Ego' may dictate many compelling actions. But only when we do what **HE** tells will bring about the desired effect in our lives, will change our water into wine, will bear lasting fruits in our lives and the lives of the young people we accompany. He will suggest the solutions, he will show us the proper directions, he will calm our tensions and worries, and he will bring joy into our troubled minds. Let us accustom ourselves to listen to what **He** says.

DEPARTURE OF OUR DEAR SR. LORENZA D'SILVA

The Going home of our dear Sr. Lorenza D'Silva from us was painful but her life was a sermon to all of us, her pleasing and pleasant personality, constant union with God, quality approach, cordiality and cheerfulness attracted every one. Her simplicity of life, availability for the mission, approachability and spontaneity in correlation, joyfulness and optimism were her constant communication to us.

I am sure that all of us are very much inspired and imbibed by the nobility of dear Sr. Lorenza and her witnessing and committed religious life lived until the last moment of her breath. Let our love, gratitude and appreciation for our dear sister be changed into sincere prayer. We commend to the Lord the soul of our dear sister who left us for the heavenly abode. May she intercede for us from the *Eternal Shore*.

I express my gratitude and appreciation to dear Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Antony Mullassery Bishop of Quilon for conducting the funeral service and for the prayers offered. Special word of thanks to Rev. Msgr. Shaji German of the diocese of Quilon for celebrating the Holy Eucharist and offering prayers. Sincere thanks to all the Salesians for their prayerful presence, expression of sympathy and for the great support.

I take this opportunity to thank sincerely the communities of Palluruthy for lovingly accompanying Sr. Lorenza in her last days and Kottiyam for making all arrangements to bid her farewell in the most appropriate mode. I thank everyone who collaborated with us for making the funeral of Sr. Lorenza a significant, prayerful, memorable and hope filled celebration.

The communities kindly remember to offer two masses for the repose of the soul of our dear Sr. Lorenza D'Silva.

CELEBRATIONS



TEACHERS DAY - 5th

On 5th of this month, the Feast day of Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata, we celebrate the Teachers Day. There is a saying that teachers are greater than the parents. Parents give birth to a child whereas teachers mould that child's personality and provide a bright future. Apart from academics, teachers stand by the students at every step to guide, motivate and inspire to become better people. One of the biggest roles a teacher may have is that of a mentor. Students look up to teachers and may pattern their own behavior and work ethic to match the instructor. 'One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world'. Let us be inspired by the thought of the former late president of India, APJ Abdul Kalam "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher".

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." With this thought of Mother Teresa I wish everyone Happy Teachers Day.

BIRTHDAY OF BL. VIRGIN MARY - 8th

When birthdays are celebrated, we celebrate the gift of a person, the life that he or she has, and the joy that they have brought to their loved ones. But as we celebrate the birthday of Mary, we discover that there is also a bigger reason we can rejoice - God dwells in this person.

In the Catholic devotion to Mary, we see that it is because of God that she is remembered, it is the grace of God that she was made holy. Her nativity is remembered because it is the dawn that points to the coming light of Christ. In a similar way, we see that every child is called to holiness in Christ, to be the light and salt of the earth. As we celebrate the earthly birthday of Blessed Mary, let us also celebrate the joy of our identity as the dwelling place of God, His chosen people. We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. Let us spend some time with her individually and as a community, listening to her, for she will tell us how to be friends and mothers to the young.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – 14th

On this date in 320, during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, St. Helen discovered the site where local Christians believed Jesus was crucified. Underneath this site of a pagan temple, she found three buried crosses—Jesus' own, and the crosses of the two thieves executed beside him. How did Helen identify which cross was the one on which Jesus died? A sick woman was told to kiss each cross, and when she kissed the third cross, she was healed. Helen also discovered the inscription that was placed on the cross above Jesus' head and the nails that pierced his hands and feet. When she was certain she had found the true cross, it was lifted up for all to see and the gathered people responded in acclamation of praise. The date of this discovery was remembered and used to dedicate churches that were later built over the places of Jesus' death and burial. Pieces of the true cross were kept in a silver reliquary box in the church that was built over Jesus' tomb. Early authors all agree that the relics were comprised of pieces of the true cross; the

cross was not preserved in its entirety. In the centuries that followed, conflicts overran the Holy Land multiple times, and invading forces claimed the relics as a prize. When the Holy Roman Emperor Heraclius recovered the pieces of the cross in 629 after one incursion, he gathered the people on this date for a solemn liturgy to venerate the relics. When the pieces were lifted up for veneration, many sick were miraculously cured.

The Exaltation of the Cross consists in the fact that “the event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life”. The cross has now become a “weapon for peace,” for through it; the power of violence and death has been overcome. On this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us remember Jesus’ suffering and death and look to the cross for healing and life! We are all called to embrace our very own Cross and be like Jesus. We need the Cross to be transformed.

STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL – 29th

On this date the Church remembers the three archangels mentioned in Scripture by name: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Michael, whose name literally means “Who can compare to God?”, manifests God’s power and might. He battles Satan, the huge dragon, the ancient Serpent (Rev 12:9), and casts him from heaven. Michael guards the people of God (cf. Dn 12:1), defends the souls of the just, and bears them to their final judgment. We celebrate the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Let us pray to them that we also experience the love and concern of the Father as Jesus experienced it in His life time.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

FMA PCI 2019

The Meeting of FMA-PCI 2019, held at FMA Outreach, Lumshyiap, Shillong. We were 35 participants from the 7 FMA provinces. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil was the Presiding General Councillor. I express my heartfelt thanks to Sr. Lucy Rose for her sisterly presence, wise guidance and sharing of life together. Thanks to Sr. Amalanathan M Margrat the PCI president for organizing this annual event in every detail. My sincere appreciation and thanks to Sr. Elizabeth George and to the Sisters of INS for their warm hospitality and for making our stay pleasant and comfortable. May our discussions and reflections on the Chapter theme enable us to awaken the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of the Institute and to recommit ourselves on behalf of young people and to become ever more efficacious presence in the Church and in the world.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF FMA PRESENCE IN INDIA

We are blessed and privileged to live in this historic time as we prepare ourselves for the 150th



anniversary of the foundation of our Institute that rose in Mornese on 5th August, 1872 and the Centenary celebration of FMA presence in India. The six pioneers who came to India on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the Institute reached Tanjore on 22nd November 1922. It is the heart's need to thank God for the prodigies of holiness and of grace that have happened in our history up to now. At the same time, it is an appeal to decisively renew our fidelity to Jesus and our missionary daring so that our religious family may continue to be in the Church and in the world, a sign of love and hope for many young people. I exhort all the communities to prepare well and celebrate this significant day in a worthy manner.

SILVER JUBILARIANS RENEWAL COURSE

Sr. Elsa Devasia, Sr. Jancy Augustine, Sr. Saly Abraham and Sr. Valsa Mathew will attend this renewal course in DBRC Bangalore from 2 - 15 September 2019, which will give them the opportunity to reflect about the fidelity of God and thank Him for the past twenty five years and also to recommit themselves to the mission entrusted to them. Let us pray that they may have a fruitful experience.

WELCOME HOME

Hearty welcome to dear Sr. Josephine Pereira, from Sudan, Africa who has come for the treatment of the eyes. We are very happy that she will be with us some time. Let us pray for her good health and the mission in Sudan.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION & THANKS

Warmest thanks to dear Sr. Monica and community at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore for Your spirit of hospitality and care shown to the Provincial Chapter members who came for the pre chapter animation programme from 22 -25th August 2019. Thank you again for all you do for the Province.

CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS

- ✚ To Sr. Rose Ezarath and the Sisters of INC Province at the demise of Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel on 15th August 2019.
- ✚ To Fr. Kochamkunnel Jose and the Salesians of INM province at the passing away of Fr. Bout on 17th August 2019.
- ✚ To Sr. Nirmala Lazar and all the Sisters of INM Province at the sad demise of Sr. James Glorina Rita on 20th August 2019.
- ✚ To Sr. Frinsha C Francis at the sudden death of her maternal aunt.
- ✚ To Sr. Bridget Jacob at the passing away of her paternal uncle.
- ✚ To Sr. Vijayamma Gudime at the demise of her maternal uncle.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES



- For the Sister- in-law of Sr. Bridget Thonippara
- Brother -in-law of Sr. Usha Rani Sathuluri
- Priest brother of Sr. Sumi Joseph who is admitted in the hospital
- and for all our sickly and ailing sisters.

I Wish You each one of you a very HAPPY FEAST of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

*Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial*



Our Lady of Good Health Pray for Us!!

