



**Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice**

*Salesiane di Don Bosco*

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK  
Bangalore - India**



**PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR**  
**SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49**

**XXVII/5**

**October 2019**

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

During my recent visit to the communities, together with Sr. Elizabeth Pothen, the Vice Provincial Sr. Saly Abraham the provincial economer and Sr. Sini Varghese who substituted Sr. Saly in few houses, I was delighted to see how every community has taken to heart the Chapter Theme. The theme was creatively displayed in a prominent place in the community and the prayer animations were focused towards the theme. It was also wonderful to see that most of our collaborators, members of pious associations and children are well oriented towards the Chapter theme. “Do whatever He tells you.” I am sure that each one of you in the communities has committed yourself to serious study and reflection of the Pre-Chapter Document. In fact some of you have taken the GCXXIV theme for the of your community day celebration is also praiseworthy. The resonance from the communities tell me that you are praying much and spending at least half an hour before of the Blessed Sacrament for this particular intention. I would like to invite you to intensify your prayers with the offerings of your daily life so that our immediate preparation for the Provincial Chapter may bring abundant blessing on each one of us and on our Province. As informed earlier I am sure that you are deepening the objective of GCXXIV: “To awaken the original freshness of the Vocational fruitfulness”- by reading and reflecting from the book “Spirit of Mornese” - by Carlo Colli, SDB Page 45 – 116.

Mother General insists on us to own the Chapter; only then renewal can take place at personal, community and Province level. It is an appropriate time to think of our own spiritual life which is the fundamental of everything, to develop *PERSONAL SPIRITUALITY* based on Self Discipline and Self Education, Vision Centred Communities, all members to personalize the Vision, transparency and coherence in our daily life. I appreciate and am grateful to Sr. Margrat Mathai, the Moderator and the sisters in the Pre- Chapter Commission for all the hard work they are putting in for its success and fruitfulness. As we come closer to the Provincial Chapter V, Let us look at Mary, woman and Mother who invites us to understand what it means to enter with a



motherly heart into the scenarios of profound social and cultural changes in which new languages of relationships develop. With her, “let us take on her attitudes of faith, hope and charity “ that made her so contemporary to the situation as to move her to intervene at Cana with feminine intuition, anticipating the hour of Jesus. Let us entrust our provincial Chapter in her hands so that her maternal solicitude becomes our solicitude.

## ----- CELEBRATIONS -----

### EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

“**Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World**” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Three events will mark the days of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. On Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00 p.m. in St. Peter's Papal Basilica in the Vatican, the Holy Father Francis will preside the celebration of Vespers which will be introduced by the Missionary Vigil and witnesses' testimonies beginning at 5:15 p.m. The following on October 7th at 3:00 p.m., an international rosary will be held at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major led by H.E. Card. Fernando Filoni. The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies have invited Radio Maria to organize this event, which will have worldwide coverage, since it will be broadcast live on radio and video by almost 80 Radio Maria stations scattered throughout five continents. Volunteers and Radio Maria staff have been working for months to ensure the success of the event, which will be a source of many graces for each of us, for our families and for the whole world. On Sunday, October 20th on World Mission Day at 10:30 a.m., Pope Francis will preside over the Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis has released the Message for World Mission Sunday 2019, which takes place each year on the third Sunday of October. This year it falls on 20<sup>th</sup> October. In his message for Mission Sunday 2019, the Holy Father has asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again.

The title of the present Message is the same as that of October's Missionary Month: *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*. Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. Let us entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. In union with her Son, from the moment of the Incarnation the Blessed Virgin set out on her pilgrim way. She was fully involved in the mission



of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross: the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith. I am sure you will make use of the materials send to you by Sr. Bala Savarimuttu thus making this month truly a missionary month and become ardent missionaries.

## **MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

Saint Pius V established the feast of the holy Rosary in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716. The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Pius XII called it a compendium of the gospel. The main focus is on Jesus—his birth, life, death, and resurrection. The Our Fathers remind us that Jesus' Father is the initiator of salvation. The Hail Marys remind us to join with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. They also make us aware that Mary was and is intimately joined with her Son in all the mysteries of his earthly and heavenly existence. The Glory Bes reminds us that the purpose of all life is the glory of the Trinity. As we pray this centuries-old prayer given to us by the Blessed Virgin herself, united with countless families, friends and Rosary confraternities, and receive many blessings through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. Let us be faithful to the good tradition of praying the Rosary with neighbouring catholic families.

## **GREEN & CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**

Why should we care about the environment? First and foremost, a clean environment is vital to not only to our own healthy living, but survival of all living things. The air we breathe is the most essential resource that the environment provides us with, and our efforts to reduce air pollution are currently not even pacing the pollution being pumped into the air daily (especially in major cities). But air pollution is not the only type of pollution we should be concerned with. There is also water pollution which badly affects our planet. The recent drought in some parts of our country and heavy rains, landslides and floods in other parts is certainly a pointer to the imbalance in nature leading to global warming and climate change. The voice of the Holy Father is very emphatic and prophetic in his encyclical *Laudato Si*. We all need to take a positive step in this regard and plunge into action individually and collectively. Celebration of Gandhi Jayanthi on October 2nd and the feast of St. Francis of Assisi the patron saint of the environment is an apt occasion to make some practical decisions to protect God's creation and preserve the nature for the future generations. I urge every community to commit yourselves seriously to make our houses and Institutions green and clean.

- ❖ To avoid plastic use in our institutions
- ❖ To grow plants in our houses and encourage the students to do so in their homes.
- ❖ To collect and segregate organic and other wastes separately in our campuses. Waste segregation basically means keeping wet and dry wastes separately so that dry can be recycled and wet waste can be composted. Introduce keeping separate containers for dry and wet waste in our premises.



- ❖ Where ever it is possible to plan for rain water harvesting and dig pits for water storage in our campuses and teach the same to those in our contact.
- ❖ Encourage reusable water bottles, tiffin boxes and tumblers
- ❖ Repurposing – So many things around can be repurposed and reused. Plastic bags, for instance, can be reused at the grocery store or used as small wastebasket bags.

Your creative efforts could be shared in INK Chip for the benefit of all.

### **FEASTS OF THE MONTH**

- ❖ **St. Therese of Child Jesus - 1<sup>st</sup>**
- ❖ **Guardian Angels - 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- ❖ **St. John XXIII – 11<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **Bl. Alessandria Da Costa - 13<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **St. Teresa Of Avila- 15<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **St. John Paul II – 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- ❖ **Bl. Michael Rua – 29<sup>th</sup>**

## ----- **COMMUNICATIONS** -----

### **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE NEW PROVINCIAL OF MUMBAI**

Congratulations and Prayerful wishes to dear Fr. Savio Silveira the 11<sup>th</sup> Provincial of Mumbai province. We beseech the Lord's blessings upon him as he leads the Mumbai province forward according to God's plan. Be sure of our special prayers as you take up this great mission of guiding the province.

### **COURSES & SEMINARS**

- ❖ Srs. Lincy George, Jissy Chandy & Mini Leon attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> General Body Meeting and National Convention for the year 2019 of All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) held from 29th August to 1st September, 2019 at Father Muller Convention Centre, in Mangalore.
- ❖ Eighteen sisters participated in the Christo Centric retreat at USM, Indore from 23 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and have returned with great enthusiasm to become agents of social change.
- ❖ Sr. Shantha Kumari Bandanatham will be attending an updating programme, network and partner with Bosco, a free capacity building workshops for civil Society organization in conducted by Bosco Seva Kendra, Hyderabad Province. It will be taking place in different dates during the year 2019 – 2020.



## MISSION & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Our 5 Second year novices will go for their Mission and community experience from 5<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Guntur and Ulsoor. Our young sisters who are doing the Intensive Juniorate will also have two weeks of mission exposure from 5<sup>th</sup> October - 19<sup>th</sup> October. During the mission experience they will be assisted by Sr. Agnese Fernandez and Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani. After which the second year novices will proceed to the communities of Yelleswaram, Palluruthy and Thiruthiparambu. We wish them a profound and fruitful experience of community and mission.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences to all our sisters, fathers and their family members who lost their dear ones and assure them of our prayers for the dear departed:

- ✚ To our dear Sr. Lawra Albena at the sudden demise of her beloved father Mr. Savarinathan on 10 September 2019.
- ✚ To Fr. Provincial and the Confreres of Mumbai Province at the demise of Fr. Ignas Macwan on 9th September 2019.
- ✚ To Vice Provincial and the Salesians of INT province at the shocking death of dear provincial Fr. Joseph Antony on 11 September 2019.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Valsa Mathew at the loss of her maternal aunt on 24 September 2019.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES

- ❖ For the Sister of Sr. Celine Jacob
- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani
- ❖ Uncle of Sr. Usha Rani Sathuluri
- ❖ Brother of Sr. Mary Manjil
- ❖ Mother of Sr. Shiji Abraham &
- ❖ Brother in law of Sr. Showrilu

## CONCLUSION

*“... He and his mother, his brothers and his disciples went down to Capernaum” (Jn. 2: 11-12)*

Here is a community with many faces moving towards the mission with Jesus at the Centre and Mary along the way. Our document says “from the ‘sign of Cana’ the community of disciples begins to constitute itself as ‘together’; the various members having been individually called and having a personal experience of encounter with Jesus. After the ‘sign’ of the good wine at Cana, they perceive a deeper meaning in the personality of the Master, because of this ‘together’ they descend with Him to Capernaum...” They are fascinated by Jesus and they cannot leave Him. They are prepared now for the mission at Capernaum. At one time they were called personally



“come follow me...I will make you fishers of men”; at the wedding of Cana they saw, they witnessed the power of Jesus. They realized that he was not an ordinary person, there is something unique and wonderful. This seeing enhanced their faith in Him, enlivened their motivation to follow him. They are ready to go with Him wherever He takes them.

Isn't this a picture of our lives too? Each one of us was called by the Lord at one time, that moment of our hearing his voice and our decision. Years have rolled by for some of us, for others this experience is a recent event. Have we seen signs of his power anywhere, at any time in our communities, in our mission field? Perhaps we are either blind or deaf and are incapable of seeing and hearing because we are not with Jesus like the apostles. We may be elsewhere engrossed in our activities and cares of daily life. Our pre-occupation is not Jesus and His Kingdom but something else. Only when we are fascinated by Jesus through a deep experience of him through encounter and witnessing signs we become capable of building loving communities. Only then we will move out courageously and generously to today's Capernaum - the peripheries, the slums, the unorganized youth, the migrants, the displaced, the poorest of the poor who are without a home, a meal for the day, a person to relate, someone to love and be loved.

After the Cana experience all are around Jesus who creates a new community. That community around Jesus was not perfect. They were of different characters, attitudes, faces, and ambitions. They had their own egoistic tendencies and heated arguments “who will be the greatest”. But they were with Jesus and Mary and that made the difference. From being a mere human community, it became a divine community with a capacity for union and service devoid of the ego.

Followers of Christ who center their lives on Jesus start to become more like Him. They talk about Him, think about Him, dream about Him, and scheme to spend more time with Him. They choose to obey His commands out of love and honor for their Lord, not from fear of being caught in sin. The greatest desire of Christ-centered believers is to please Him and grow to be more like Him. Their lives echo Paul's words in “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” ([Phil 3:10](#)) Wasn't this the spirit of Mornese where our first sisters were passionately in love with Jesus and this love made them relate with each other with genuine love?

The secret to living a Christ-centered life is to understand the “fear of the Lord” ([Psalm 19:9](#); [Proverbs 16:6](#)). The fear of the Lord is the continual awareness that our loving heavenly Father is watching and evaluating everything we think, say, or do. Those who live Christ-centered lives have developed a tangible awareness of the presence of Jesus ([Mathew 28:20](#)). They make decisions based upon the question “Would this please the Lord?” They avoid Satan's traps and worldly entanglements because they evaluate their choices: “If Jesus was spending the day with me, would I do that? Watch that? Say that?” ([1 Tim. 3:7](#); [Eph. 6:11](#)). “Every lifestyle decision is weighed on heaven's scales and evaluated for its eternal significance. Lesser loves fall by the wayside because they steal time, resources, and energy away from the real passion of life - pleasing Jesus”.

As we begin the month of October, the month of the rosary let us think more of Mary. Let us allow her to play her maternal role in our lives and in the lives of our young people. She was there at Cana and in the community that was moving to Capernaum, exercising her motherhood. As the document says “Mary, the Mother has been in the church since the beginning, the woman who arouses faith in Jesus in the disciples, awakens fascination of Him, accompanies on the path of discipleship and guards in time of trial.”

This is the Mary’s job even in our communities provided we have enough faith and trust to feel her presence and action. She will teach us the art of discipleship and guide us in our attempts to take steps toward new peripheries and defend us from the dangers that are looming before us from the religious fundamentalists and the painful situation of our world particularly our nation.

*Wishing you a fruitful month of Holy Rosary!*

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Provincial*



**"No prayer is more meritorious for the soul and more glorious for Jesus and Mary than a well recited Rosary".**

**- Saint Louis de Montfort**

