



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK
Bangalore - India



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

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My dearest Sisters, Affectionate and Prayerful Greetings for a very blessed and fruitful New Year!

Time is one of the greatest gifts that God gives us. As we are at the start of a brand new year 2020, may I wish each one of you a year of grace, growth, and abundant blessings for you and in particular for the young people for whom we live and work. Let us begin this New Year with lot of positive attitudes towards oneself and others. I would like to propose for our reflection the document “**NEW WINE IN NEW WINESKINS**” It is the 9th magisterial document on the Consecrated Life published by Pope Francis. Approved by him on 3rd January 2017 and was published by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This document is one in which consecrated men and women are called to blaze new trails so that ideals and doctrine can be incarnated in the systems, structures, ministries, styles, relationships, and vocabularies of their life.” **Nobody puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins too. No! New wine, in fresh skins! (MK2; 22)** Jesus invites His disciples to understand the freshness and vitality of his message and warns them about the dry and rigid wineskins and ancient structures that cannot contain the force of the new wine, which is the joyous and sparkling proclamation of the gospel. If we want our charism to remain relevant, and our lives as consecrated people to speak to our contemporaries, our own lives have to **find new ways of responding to the call of God**. The young people of today are like the new wine, full of potential, dreaming to mature and needing a direction. This calls for a change of mentality, a paradigm shift. The new wine skin of listening non judgmentally and spending qualitative time with the young to accompany and guide them is a welcome change for the new wine to get in and mature. Only then will we be able to help the young to become integrated persons. May Mary the Mother of God accompany you in this process of pouring NEW WINE IN NEW WINE SKINS thus doing what God asks of us today in order to help his kingdom move forward in the world. Let us begin afresh this New Year!

-----CELEBRATIONS-----

MARY MOTHER OF GOD – 1st

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated by the Catholic Church on 1 January, the Octave of Christmas.



Why did Jesus give us His Mother? Jesus gave us his Mother so that she would be the Mother of all humanity. After having considered the role of the Virgin Mary in the mystery of Christ and the Spirit, we should think about her role in the mystery of the Church. We know that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ and, consequently, the Mother of God. But she is also the Mother of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Because of this, the mission of Mary is totally inseparable from the mission of the Church. And it should be clearly stated that the role of Mary, as Mother of all humanity, in no way eclipses or diminishes Christ. On the contrary, her role can only help to clarify Christ's role. This is one of the reasons God decided to share his Mother with us.

ST. KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA - 3rd

St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the first Indian male saint who lived only for a short span of 66 years from 10 February 1805 to 3 January 1871 could do what many people together cannot achieve even during the course of many centuries. He was able to do this because as he himself preached he was guided by the conviction that “Days, on which you have not rendered any good to others, will not be reckoned in the book of your life”. As a poet and a truly pious man, he reiterated that the love of God should translate itself as service to the poor, the illiterate and the destitute. It was precisely because of this reason that he was acknowledged by his contemporaries as a living saint during his life time. Even his own testimony at deathbed revealed his inner innocence and sanctity: “I have never lost the baptismal grace”.

Fr. Chavara Kuriakose was a social reformer. Though he hailed from an upper caste Syrian Christian family, he played a major role in educating the people of the lower ranks of society. In 1846, Fr. Kuriakose started St. Joseph's Press at Mannanam which was the third printing press in Kerala and the first one to be founded by a Keralite without the help of foreigners. From this printing press came the first Malayalam daily Nasrani Deepika. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuriakose_Elias_Chavara_-_cite_note-thehindu-6 He also started a school at Mannanam in the same year. He was responsible for introducing mid-day meals in schools, a practice which was later adopted by the rulers of Travancore and then by the Indian government. In 1864, while he was serving as the Vicar General of Syrian Catholics, he ordered to start a school along with every Parish Church (*Palli*) which was successful in making free education available for everyone. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuriakose_Elias_Chavara_-_cite_note-indianexpress-7 Thus schools in Kerala came to be known as *Pallikudam*. Fr. Kuriakose introduced retreat preaching for the laity for the first time in the Kerala Church. He popularised devotions and piety exercises such as Rosary, Stations of the cross and Eucharistic adoration. When St. Chavara had to face challenges he firmly believed that with the help of the Lord who has called him to be his priest he would be able to overcome all these challenges. He was never heart-broken because he believed that nothing is impossible for God. Let us develop in us to have firm faith in God to face all the situations of life.

EPIPHANY – 5th

The Gospel reading for this feast begins with the question of the Wise Men: “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? Where do we find Him?” Many people in the world have the same query. Perhaps some have enquired us too where they can find God. The question “Where do we find Him” has



within it a quest, a searching, a journey. The word “question,” has within it the word “quest.” We all have our own quests, our own journeys that we are making through life. What are we looking for: material things or spiritual things, things that will last or things that won’t last? What is material won’t last, what is spiritual is everlasting. What is material eventually leads to darkness; what is a spiritual lead to God’s light, a light that has overcome darkness that surrounds us. What is spiritual frees us, what is material captures us. For us, the question then is not what we are looking for, but who we are looking for. Let us make every effort to find Him in the daily events, in persons we meet, in our young people and women we serve and in our sisters. Let us encounter Him with a smile in all these persons.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD – 12th

The feast of baptism marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It’s a feast of transition from Jesus’ hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus’ divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist. The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus. As we begin this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, may it be a time of extraordinary grace in which we daily heed His voice. Jesus, I trust in You.

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. 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. Bl. Louis Variara developed the Salesian charism of sacrifice and founded the Congregation of the "Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary", to take care of the Leprosy patients. Like Don Bosco he was exemplary in obedience and even in the face of calumny he said nothing. He was credible because he was obedient. He was beatified in 2002.

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

The theme for the week of prayers for Christian unity this year is: “They showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2), the texts are based on the biblical passage describing the shipwreck of Saint Paul in Malta (Acts 27:18–28,10). May this passage help us to reflect on the trust of Saint Paul in divine providence and on the ecumenical virtue of hospitality. Let this special prayers for a week enable us to pray for the unity of all Christians all over the world.

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 the boarding Laura learned about God and His love, and learned to repay this love with love for her fellow students and the sisters. Laura was a leader in sports, and a friend to all. She helped the younger children with their daily tasks, such as making their beds, and with their personal chores, such as combing their hair or mending their clothes. She acted as peacemaker for the children's quarrels. When her little sister Julia was naughty, Laura gently corrected her. Laura was looked up to by all. She was serious and wise beyond her age. She had a mature understanding of prayer, and because she was a natural leader, she seemed to build up a joyful spirit of piety in all her fellow students. "Wherever I am, at school, at play, or anywhere else, the thought of God accompanies me, helps me, and consoles me," she said. To the youth of today Laura Vicuna is an example of purity, inspiration and courage. In the present day context, Laura Vicuna'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. The spiritual life of the Christian is his ordinary life, lived in the Spirit of Christ. Francis insists on the duty of state. We must work in the field where we are. It is a question of loving our vocation, of living fully "where the Lord has planted us: He recommends the virtue of patience. It is, he says, "the one that assures us most of perfection, and if we must have it with others, we must also have it with ourselves". "Great works are not always in our way, but we can at any time make them small excellently, that is to say with a great love. " He knew how to speak simply and touch hearts: "Our words must come out of the heart more than from the mouth. In vain do we speak, but the heart speaks to the heart, and the tongue speaks only to the ears. Let us pray to the patron of our congregation that we may imitate him in his extraordinary meekness and in winning the souls of the young.

REPUBLIC DAY – 26th

On 26 January India celebrates its 71st Republic day! Our Motherland has seen 72 years of Freedom. Republic Day is a day to remember when the Constitution of India officially came into force on January 26, 1950. This historical act formally transitioned India to become an independent republic and hence it is celebrated on January 26 every year. Mahatma Gandhi had said" You be the change you want to see in the world" In other words, although in life changes are inevitable, we can initiate personal change so that we can become better persons. Let us prepare our students for celebrating the Republic Day of our Country, placing before them a realistic picture of the Nation. Every day we observe anomalies in our society, cities states and in our country, and somewhere in our busy minds we do nothing else but dreaming: dreaming to see things change and we do not make things to change. If our society and the world at large should become better, we have to dream as well as do more. It is all about creativity and being proactive, not waiting for the next person to do what one has

the capacity to do. We have to take bold step and be a light in this dark world, an eye to the blind an ear to the deaf, a voice to the dumb and source of strength to those living in appalling conditions. We have the power to change the world: we can motivate people from being just dreamers to DOERS. Tomorrow's India is in the hands of today's children and youth.

ST. JOHN BOSCO - 31st

On 22nd January we begin the Novena in preparation for the feast of St. John Bosco, our Father, Founder, Model and Guide. Dear Sisters as we celebrate the feast of our Founder's feast I would like to remind on the subject of our System of Education where we have to take great responsibility and immense care. Don Bosco opted for loving-kindness, i.e. a special quality of friendliness on the part of the educator which inspires cooperation and confidence on the part of the one being educated. He based his education on charity: the pedagogy of the heart. The real situation that young people find themselves in today spur us on to put the Preventive System into action. Pedagogy of the heart is more than ever needed given the frequent absence of love. Essentially it means to prevent a boy from becoming bad. It is based on Christian charity. Its double foundation is reason and religion: in other words, a sense of understanding between teacher and student, engendered by daily contact, friendly chats, and an interest that is felt; and secondly, a sense of religion fostered by the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. According to the saint, where other systems of education have failed, this system of kind-understanding and mainly sincere religion, has more than succeeded. The basic traits of his approach are to be found in a letter he wrote to Salesians from Rome in November 1884. Here are some of them:

- education is a matter of the heart
- confidence and familiarity are basic to the system
- familiar presence is an indispensable element
- the environment/surroundings provide for an education as a kind of contagion that goes on between educator and the one being educated
- Jesus Christ is the model for this relationship

As we celebrate the feast our great saint let us recall his famous thought *"In every young person a point of goodness is accessible and it is the primary duty of the educator to discover that sensitive cord of the heart so as to draw out the best in the young person"*.

COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME HOME

Heartly welcome to dear Sr. Regina Varghese, from Solomon Island, Australia who has come for the holidays .We are very happy to have you some time with us. She will be going back to her mission land on 10th February 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS& BEST WISHES

On behalf of all the sisters of INK Bangalore, I congratulate Fr. Agilan SARPRASADAM, the new Provincial elect of the Salesian Province of Annai Velankanni, Tiruchy (INT). We invoke God's abundant blessings upon him as he undertakes the challenging mission of animation and governance



of the Province.

JUNIORS RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION

Due to the retreat of animators on 8th & 9th February 2020 the junior sisters will have their Tri- monthly recollection in their respective communities this time. Materials will be send to the superiors for animating the juniors for a day.

ANNUAL RETREATS

Kindly keep aside all your usual commitments and prepare yourselves for this important time of personal and community renewal. The first Annual retreat begins at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15 and concludes on 22, January 2020. The list of participants was sent to you. Kindly check the list and if there is any change, inform me and Sr. Shiny Karakkat.

Dates	Preacher
15- 22 January 2020	Fr. Anil Dev IMS
08 - 15 February 2020	Fr. Jose Parappally SDB
27 April - 04 May 2020	Fr. James Mathew SDB
16 - 23 May 2020	Fr. Jose Kuttianimattathil SDB

ECONOMERS' MEETING

The local economers will be having the annual closing of the accounts as per the following dates: 7 - 8 January for those of Karnataka region, 9 – 11 January for those of Kerala region and 12 -14January for those of region Andhra and Telangana. May the Spirit of the Lord be with our dear Sr. Saly Abraham and all the economers to assist guide in this important task of the province.

ANNUAL EVALUATION AND PLANNING&

CELEBRATION OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY DIAMOND & GOLDEN & SILVER JUBILEE

As we have given in the Apostolic Plan 2019 – 2023 on 15 &16 February there will be the Annual Evaluation and Planning of the various Sectors for the new Academic year by the Team Members and the Animators of Communities. Fr. Jose Xavier SJ will be guiding us in this important task. I request all those who are in charge of the sectors both Team members and the regionals to evaluate and prepare the report well and come for this important meeting. (Kindly refer to the letter of Vice Provincial, Sr. Elizabeth Pothan and the information given by the General Coordinator Sr. Margrat Mathai.)

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- ❖ Let us pray for the brother of Sr. Bridget Jacob who is seriously ill and admitted in the hospital
- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Aruna Gattupalli who is in the ICU
- ❖ Brother of Sr. Annie Kottaram bishop Emeritus Mathew Anikuzhikattil



CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS

- ✦ To dear Sr. Elizabeth Pothen at the sudden demise of her cousin Mrs. Kunjamma 53 on 12th December 2019.
- ✦ To dear Srs Catherine Aayila & Mary Aayila at the passing away of their beloved brother Mr. A. V Joseph (86) on 13th December 2019.
- ✦ To dear Sr. Sheela Jacob at the death of her brother-in-law Mr. Antoo Tharayil (63) on 16th December 2019.
- ✦ To Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and all the sisters of INT province at the sudden demise of dear Sr. Asirvatham Amalorpavam (63) on 19th December 2019.
- ✦ To Sr. Bridget's Thonippara at the loss of her eldest brother and Sr. Helen Thonippara at the loss of her nephew Mr. T. C. Joseph (87) on 29th December 2019.

May they Souls Rest in Peace!

CONCLUSION

Dear Sisters, as we step into the New Year, "Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous New Year by believing. Believe in yourself. And believe that there is a loving source - a Sower of Dreams - just waiting to be asked to help you make your dreams come true"- (Sarah Ban) My wish and prayer for each one of you is :

The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let His face shine upon you

And be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

With Assurance of prayers.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial



Wishing each and every one of you a Great Year ahead that starts with Happiness and end with too..... Let us live every moment with love, grace & Gratitude!

