



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

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



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

XXVIII/9

February 2020

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

As we enter the month of February we celebrate the day of the Consecrated, a day on which we reflect on holiness. It calls for a radical mindset. It is a dream where sound and silence meet, where words are generated for the greater good of humanity and gets converted into action. Like a plant our growth in holiness is in a slow process unfolding and becoming of the divine depth. It is a blossoming from within. God is at work and we are the clay in God's hands. God manifests His divinity in the most humble state which begins with the incarnation, carpentry, public life, beatitudes, sharing everything up to the Cross on Calvary. True humility is strength of character. It endures, suffers, and patiently bears the undeserved moments of persecution which is the sign of holiness. "Humility is strength under control" –this unknown saying gives a clue to holiness.

----- CELEBRATIONS -----

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – 2nd

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus. Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah. On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus' presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with



the heart of the One whose very name is Charity. Dear sisters, may this day of celebration spent in fraternity bring light and life to your communities; may the Virgin Mary, model of contemplation, teach us to constantly seek the face of God and to remain faithful to our religious commitment and our mission.

BL. EUSEBIA PALOMINO – 9th

Eusebia's short life was full of challenges, which she bore with grace and piety. Born in Spain in 1899, into a poor farming family, she became accustomed to begging to help her family survive in bad times. She worked as a servant to a wealthy family, and later became a nanny at an orphanage. Her call to religious life led her to become a lay assistant to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians where her spiritual gifts were recognised, and she entered the novitiate. In the early 1930s, as the Church was menaced by anti-Catholic forces in Spain, Sr. Eusebia offered herself to God for the salvation of her country. In 1932, she contracted an illness which could not be explained by doctors, causing painful contraction of her limbs. She died on February 10, 1935, and was beatified in 2004. All were attracted by her humility and kindness. Blessed Eusebia teaches us that whatever be our mission, our goal is evangelization and salvation of the souls.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. “For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.” Let every commemoration of Our Blessed Mother help us to grow a little more in our Marian piety as well as in faith.

HOLY SEASON OF LENT – 26th

We begin the liturgical season of Lent this year, on 26th February, the Ash Wednesday. Lent invites us into a season of greater spiritual discipline that includes prayer, penance and almsgiving. This discipline, in turn, pushes outside our comfort zone and challenges our usual orientation in life. Let us not regard ourselves better than others, but fear that we will appear worse in the sight of God, who alone knows our heart. Let us not be proud of our good works, for, God does not judge by human standards and what is appreciated by us humans might fill Him with disgust. If we have good qualities know that others possess more, so let us remain humble. Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to everyone we meet.

SAINTS VERSIGLIA & CARAVARIO- 25th

On 25th February, we honour the Salesian Saints, Louis Versiglia and Callistus Caravario, martyred on this day in 1930. Louis was born in Oliva Gessi (Pavia) on June 5, 1873. Although his devotion from



childhood led people to believe he would be a priest, his first ambition was to become a vet. After meeting Don Bosco when he was twelve, he later discovered his vocation, with a special hope of going to the missions. He led a group of six Salesians who arrived in China in 1906. In 1918, the Salesians received the mission of Shiuchow from the Vicar Apostolic of Canton, and on January 9, 1921, Fr Versiglia was consecrated its bishop. Callistus Caravario was born at Cuorgné, in the province of Turin, on June 18, 1903. He entered the novitiate and became a Salesian. In 1922, Bishop Versiglia was in Turin and spoke of the missions to the Brothers. Callistus told him: "Bishop, you will see me in China."

After travelling as a missionary for a few years, in May 18, 1929, Callistus returned to Shiuchow, where bishop Versiglia ordained him priest and entrusted him with the mission at Linchow. On February 13, 1930, Fr Caravario was in Shiuchow to accompany the bishop on his pastoral visit to the Linchow mission. Some young boys and girls who had been studying in Shiuchow went with them. On February 25, a group of Bolshevik pirates stopped the bishop's boat, wanting to take the girls. Bishop Versiglia and Fr Callistus stopped them. They were taken by force and ultimately shot, but before they were killed they heard one another's confessions. Their last breath was spent for their beloved China. Pope Paul VI declared them martyrs in 1976, John Paul II declared them Blessed in 1983 and canonized them on October 1, 2000. Let us ask through their intercession to grant us great courage and fortitude before difficulties and trials so that we too may be courageous witnesses and evangelizers, especially in the present religious setting in our society.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

A training programme will be conducted for capacity building and fund raising in the Provincial house Bangalore from 1 to 4 February 2020. Mr. Joachim and Mrs. Neena are the resource persons from Belgium. Srs. Mary V J, Ancy Mathew, Alice Chacko, Agnes Fernandez, Lissy Esson, Lizzie Abraham, Prameela Sundari and Dayana Rodrigues will be participating in the same.

CELEBRATION OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY

On 17th February we come together as a family to celebrate our oneness and to raise our hearts in thanks giving to God for our life and mission. We will also remember to pray for the entire province that we may be renewed and create an environment of Mornese, living Simple lives in deep relationship with God and one another and be ardent missionaries like St. Paul wherever we are. A sincere appreciation to all of you for your loving presence and generous commitment.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

On 18th February, we have the joy of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Annie Kottaram, Sr. Anna Theckeckandathil, Sr. Cecily Thomas, and Golden Jubilee of Sr. Alice Chacko and Sr. Crocetta Thomas. This year fortunately our three Silver Jubilarians Sr. Elsa Devasia, Sr. Saly Abraham and Sr. Valsa Mathew being in the provincial house will also have the celebration together for their 25 years of religious life. Dear Sisters, May God make each day of your life as beautiful as Diamond, Golden and Silver as you are. May Almighty go on to add more years of Happiness and Good health to your life.



SECOND ANNUAL RETREAT

The Second Annual Retreat which is for the animators will begin at 5.30 p.m. on 08th February and conclude with the Mass at 7.00 a.m. on 15th February 2020. Rev. Fr. Jose Parappally SDB from Kolkata province will be the preacher.

XXVIII GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SALESIANS

We shall remember all our Salesian Fathers as they will begin their XXVIII General Chapter with the theme "What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?" From February 16th to April 4th 2020 at Valdocco in Turin and the moderator of the Chapter is Fr. Stefano Vanoli, secretary of the general council. Let us pray for our Rector Major, Don Ángel Fernández Artime and all the participants may be enthused and directed by the Holy Spirit so that this significant event of the Salesian family may be an occasion go back to Valdocco and to renew their fidelity and commitment to the Charism of Don Bosco our Father and founder.

PCI NATIONAL DELEGATES MEETING

Sr. Bala Savarimuthu will be attending a Training Programme of the PCI National Delegates and since one more person can be send we decided that Sr. Jisha Abraham could join her from 22 – 24 February, 2020 in Auxilium Dum Dum – INC.

SINCERE THANKS

My sincere gratitude to Sr. Monica Thomas and community at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore for your spirit of hospitality and hard work and care shown to the Sisters who made their first annual retreat and the local Economers during their submission of accounts from 7 -15 January, 2020.

BLESSING & INAUGURATION OF THE CONVENT

On 29th February 2020, the new Residence of the sisters at Angamaly will be blessed by His Grace Rt. Rev. Anthony Kariyil D. This new structure is a sign God's marvellous Providence towards us. As we thank God and our benefactors I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sr. Mercy Abraham and the entire community for your hard work and incessant prayer thus making the long cherished dream come true.

EXAMINATIONS

With February start the different types of exams: Model exams, Oral exams, written exams and Practicals... Let pray intensively for all the children in our schools who are doing their annual exams. All the best and assurance of prayers to all the students and teachers.

CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Provincial and confreres Province of Shillong at the sad demise of Fr. Alphonse Malngiang on 25th December 2019.
- ✚ Our condolences and prayers also to the Provincial and confreres of the Province of Kolkata at the demise of Fr. Mark Mondol on 3rd January 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Aruna Kumari at the loss of her beloved mother Mrs. Mariamma (64) on 1st January 2020.



- ✚ To dear Srs. Elizabeth & Mary George at the demise of their beloved brother Mr. Manuel C. G (79) on 1st January 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Cecily Thomas at the loss of her beloved brother and Sr. Annie Augustine at the loss of her Uncle Fr. Antony Mookenthottam M.S.F.S on 3rd January 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Venila Dominic at the passing away of her grandmother on 04th January 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Jigi Paul at the loss of her paternal aunt Mrs. Thresiamma (92) on 10th January 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Bridget Thonippara at the loss of her sister-in-law Mrs. Molly Thomas (63) on 19th January 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Rosily Devasia at the death of her dear father Mr. E. P Devassy (89) on 30 January 2020.

May they Souls Rest in Peace!

CONCLUSION

Bangalore Archdiocese has dedicated the year 2020 as the “**YEAR OF THE POOR**”. I feel it is good for all our communities to keep focused on the basic needs of the poor around us. Off course it is impossible to eradicate poverty completely but this will surely enable us to be aware of the poor and the marginalized around us, and help us come closer to them and plan out short term and long term solutions. Archbishop has suggested 10 pathways to be followed in our life and mission.

- 1. Simple life style**
- 2. Avoid culture of waste**
- 3. Education of the poor children**
- 4. Feed the hungry**
- 5. Heal the sick**
- 6. Support to the imprisoned**
- 7. Welcoming the immigrants,**
- 8. Provide shelter homes to the homeless,**
- 9. Concern for the specially-abled and the marginalized**
- 10. Employment opportunities for the poor.**

May the Good Lord through his Spirit broaden the horizons of our mind and heart so that we remain committed to the poor in our life and mission.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

