



**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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**April 2020**

### **My dearest Sisters, Joyful Easter Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!**

All humanity is being put to the test. The Covid-19 pandemic puts us in a situation of unprecedented, dramatic and global difficulty whose power to threaten the plans we have for our lives is growing day by day. The occurrence of this threat calls into question aspects of our way of life that we have been taking for granted. We are living painfully a paradox that we would have never imagined: to survive the disease we must isolate ourselves from each other, but if we were ever to learn to live isolated from one another, we would quickly realize how essential for our lives life with others is. In the very middle of our technological and managerial elation, we have found ourselves socially and technically unprepared for the spread of this contagion: it has been difficult for us to recognize and admit its impact. And now, we are rushing to limit its spread.

The cry of intercession from the believers is the place where we can come to terms with the tragic mystery of death, fear of which is part of all our stories today. In the cross of Christ, it becomes possible to think of human existence as a great passage: the shell of our existence is like a chrysalis waiting for the liberation of the butterfly. The whole of creation, says St. Paul, is living “the pains of childbirth.” It is in this light that we must understand the meaning of prayer. As an intercession for everyone and for all those who are in suffering—and Jesus has brought them as well into solidarity with us—and as a moment in which to learn from Him the way to live suffering as an expression of trust in the Father.

It is this dialogue with God that becomes a foundation that enables us to trust others as well. From here we gain the inner strength to exercise all our responsibility and make ourselves open to conversion, according to what reality makes us understand about how a more human coexistence is possible in our world. We remember the words of the Bishop of Bergamo, one of the most affected cities in Italy, Bishop Francesco Beschi: “Our prayers are not magic formulas. Faith in God does not magically solve our problems, rather it gives us an inner strength to exercise that commitment that one and all, in different ways, are called to live, especially those who are called to contain and overcome this evil.” Even someone who does not share the profession of our faith can in any case draw from the witness of this universal brotherhood insights that point toward the best part of the human condition. Every form of solicitude, every expression of benevolence is a victory of the Resurrected Jesus.

As we celebrate Easter – the feast of New Life – I pray that our Risen Lord may truly grant us the gift of new life, deliverance from this stressful disease, and the grace of living healthy and serene lives once again. I wish all of you, Happy Easter and a peaceful Easter Season.

I know most of our communities are having full day adoration and other moments of special prayer to support all those who are suffering. Together with this, try to see in your locality the most deserving persons who require food grains and other items worth Rs. 500 for now. Please make a study with the help of the lay people to get the number and inform Sr. Rosy Lopez Directress of CDEW who will coordinate the same. She has already taken steps to do it in collaboration with the FIDES here in Bangalore.

### **TEAM VISIT**

Dear sisters, I am happy to tell you that we have completed the team visit for the year. It was indeed a new and enriching experience for us and for you. At the outset I would like to thank and appreciate each one of you for your welcoming attitude, family spirit, enthusiasm, hard work, openness in sharing, readiness in accepting the challenges and above all for the preparations made. We thank God for the vibrant mission that is being carried out in different sectors of the province. We were able to know in reality the joys and agonies of life and mission. In spite of the challenges of daily life try to make the educative mission more life giving. I am sure you will pay special attention to the weaker areas pointed out. Special word of thanks and appreciation to the team members who accompanied me to the different houses and offered guidance with your expertise. God bless you all!

## **----- CELEBRATIONS -----**

### **HOLY WEEK**

Holy Week marks one of the high points of the most important liturgical seasons for Catholics around the world. As the Church enters into the week before Jesus' Passion and death, the Lord "does not ask us to contemplate him only in pictures and photographs, or in the videos that circulate on the internet. No.



"Instead, Jesus is present "in our many brothers and sisters who today endure sufferings like his own: they suffer from slave labour, from family tragedies, from diseases." from interests that are armed and ready to strike. Women and men who are cheated, violated in their dignity, discarded." Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose. God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom and love of God. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost. Let this week give us divine hope even in this time of great pain and sorrow. So often we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. No hardship, no burden and no cross can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross.

## PALM SUNDAY

We begin the Holy Week with the Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), which commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Jesus shows us how to face moments of difficulty and the most insidious of temptations by preserving in our hearts a peace that is neither detachment nor superhuman impassivity, but confident abandonment to the Father and to his saving will, which bestows life and mercy.



He shows us this kind of abandonment by spurning, at every point in his earthly ministry, the temptation to do things his way and not in complete obedience to the Father. From the experience of his forty days in the desert to the culmination of his Passion, Jesus rejects this temptation by his obedient trust in the Father. The Holy Week is time for careful attention, prayer-filled reverence and profound wonder at the love of God shown in Jesus. As we participate in the Holy Week liturgy which is based on centuries-old tradition, let us deepen our devotion to the Cross, and proclaim the words of St. Paul most of all through our lives: —I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.¶

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday which commemorates the Lord's last supper with his disciples, when he gave his commandment of love. On this day, he showed us how to love, how to serve, how to wash another's feet. Let us imitate the self-giving model of Jesus who shares with us his own Body and Blood and enriches us with his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. It is by sharing our blessings – our talents, time, health and



wealth - with others that we become true disciples of Christ and obey his new commandment: "*Love one another as I have loved you*" (Jn 13:34). Maundy Thursday, then, is a day rich in meaning. It's another step on our journey to Good Friday, when we commemorate the greatest gift of all: the gift of Jesus' death on the cross, freely given, to bring us God's love, and then his rising from the tomb on Easter Sunday itself."

## GOOD FRIDAY

How difficult it is to even begin to think about the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Words sometimes fail us. If someone who was not a Christian asked us to explain what Christ's suffering and death on the cross meant to us, it would be difficult to put it into words. Everything He suffered was the price of our ransom.



He was not content to suffer a little; He wished to drink the chalice to the dregs without leaving a single drop behind, that we might learn the greatness of His love and the baseness of sin, so that we may be generous in self-giving, in mortification and in the service of others. He wanted to suffer all this for you

and for me. The efficacy of the Passion is limitless. It has filled the world with peace, with grace, with forgiveness, with happiness in souls, with salvation. The Redemption which Christ carried out just once, is applied to each person who freely accepts it. Each one of us can truly say: The Son of God loved me and gave Himself up for me. No, not for all of us, but for me, as if I were the only one.

## JOYOUS EASTER

The true message of Easter celebration is the resurrection of Jesus that marks the beginning of a new covenant between God and man. It is also the birthday of our eternal hope. This is a season when we reflect on the suffering, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is the most amazing miracle of all time. It is well documented that not only one person saw Him but hundreds.



He bore sin's heavy burden, the deeds of all mankind, the cross brought freedom, now salvation reigns! On this day we celebrate how our Saviour Jesus stood for us and took the punishment that we deserved. But it wasn't a sacrifice, it was a victory. Easter promises that what God does in the resurrection of Jesus is God's intention for the entire creation. He is the mighty conqueror, even in life's darkest hour. But what appeared to be a defeat was actually the greatest victory of all. In his death, Jesus defeated sin. On Easter morning, death too was defeated. Without the first "Easter" we would have no hope of salvation or eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus is our assurance of eternal life in Him. The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. ***Praise God! His Son is risen! And death has no power! ALLELUIA!***

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

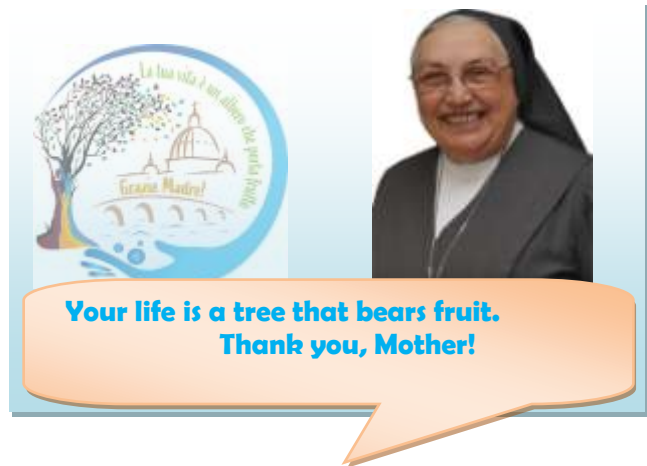
Universal Church will celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday has been celebrated for years as a private devotion. But in the year 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II, who himself was an extraordinary instrument of God's mercy, put this feast on the Church's official calendar as he raised Sister Faustina to sainthood.



We need to recognize that this Feast of Mercy is God's great gift to humanity in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus. We need to be aware of that this Feast of Mercy is a modern-day Feast of Atonement, just like in the Old Testament. We need to distinguish that this Feast of Mercy is an annual preparation for the Judgment. As we meditate in gratitude for God's gracious mercy shown to us, we should look honestly at the mercy that we show to others. Our God is a God of mercy. Are we persons of His mercy and compassion? Let the prayer "Jesus I trust in you" be constantly on our lips as recommended by St. Faustina who spread this devotion so that we may experience His divine mercy always.

## FEAST OF MOTHER GENERAL IN ROME

Let us intensify our prayers for our beloved Mother General as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the World Gratitude day on 26<sup>th</sup> April in Rome. Certainly you must have made a serious study of the suggested circular letter and the practice. A life centered on Christ and on the mission will be the most cherished gift we can present to our beloved Mother General who gives herself totally for the charismatic growth of the FMA world and for the holiness of each one of us.



Let us thank God for her loving, joyful, committed and generous service for the past 12 years. Her's is a life deeply rooted in God and so produced much lasting fruits in the life of many FMAs, young, men, women and children. We wish our beloved Mother Yvonne a Happy Gratitude Day and offer her our love, gratitude commitment, and prayers. **Mille Grazie!** May we translate the charism as part of our daily life and mission among the children and youth of the peripheries. Let us offer our generous prayers as a beautiful bouquet for our Mother and the General Council and celebrate meaningfully the feast of the World Gratitude Day .

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

### CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime who is re-elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco at the 28 General Chapter of the Salesians, and to all the elected members of the General Council especially Fr. Biju Michael Pulianmackal of Guwahati Province who is elected as the new Regional of South Asia. May the Lord bless them in their service of animation in the Salesian family.

### SPIRITUALITY COURSE - ROME

Sr. Lisy Jose will attend Two year Spirituality Course at Casa M. Ersilia Canta, Rome in the coming academic year.

I take this chance to express my sincere thanks to dear Sr. Lisy Jose for her committed, dedicated and selfless service rendered as principal of the school and animator of the community at Vaduvanchal for the past three years. Thank you dear sister for all the efforts and hard work that you have put in, for the growth of the community and the mission. We wish you all the best and an enriching experience at the Centre of the Institute and the Universal Church.

## VOCATION CAMPS

The Vocation Camps will be held in the three regions of the Province, during this month of April. Kindly contact Sr. Marietta Kaidathara for Kerala, Sr. Nirmala Mummadi for Andhra & Telangana and Sr. Ashalatha Pushparaj for Karnataka. Each community and specially the sister in charge for vocation is requested to send girls who are interested in religious life to the camps and help them respond to the call of God. Let us pray that the Lord of the harvest sends many good and enthusiastic laborers to His mission as well as the present social situation may improve so that the camps may be conducted without any difficulty. The following are the dates chosen for the camp. Let us send ahead a lot of prayers for the success of the vocation camps.

On 15 – 17 April in Karnataka	: Auxilium Welfare Centre
On 17-19 in Andhra & Telangana	: Auxilium Guntur
On 20 – 22 April in Kerala	: Auxilium Palluruthy

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ❖ Sr. Lucy Appamma will be participating in a course on consecrated life from 30 April – 30 May 2020 in Sanyasa Bangalore.
- ❖ Sr. Lizy Varkey will participate in a counselling Course from 7<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May in San Pio Centre in Kollam.

## RETREATS

Hopefully, if the present situation of Corona Virus soon eases out and travel becomes possible, we will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> retreat of the year from 27<sup>th</sup> – 04<sup>th</sup> May and the 04<sup>th</sup> retreat from May 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at our Provincial House as scheduled. At the same time as nothing can be predicted, if there is any problem I will let you know the details. I would like to exhort all the sisters to continue to spend this holy season in prayer and reading of the scriptures thus sanctifying ourselves and the whole world.

## II PHASE OF THE II NOVITIATE

- ❖ Srs. Vijaya Injetti, Priyanka Pallippam, Mary Deepthi, Shyla Anthonappa, Caroline Anthony Samy (INM), Carmel Arogya Swamy, Kanimozhi Maria Prakash (INM), Vijaya Gudime and Usha Rani Sathluri will attend the II Phase of the II Novitiate in the provincial house at Bangalore from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which will be followed by the retreat. We accompany our dear sisters with prayers as they intensely prepare themselves for their final commitment.
- ❖ The junior sisters are expected to be in the provincial house for the renewal programme on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The session will begin on 09<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 a.m. This will be followed by the annual retreat and renewal of the vows. They can return back by 24<sup>th</sup> evening.

## AUDITING OF SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

Prayerful wishes to Sr. Saly Abraham and all the local Economers as they get ready for the annual auditing of accounts this month.

## SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

Our dear Sr. Teresa Rani Mathew expressed her gratitude to each and every one for the prayers offered for her beloved father Mr. Mathew who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

**We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers**

- ✚ To dear Sr. Teresa Rani Mathew at the loss of her beloved Father Mr. Mathew on 11 March 2020.
- ✚ To Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar and the fathers of the SDB INH Province at the loss of Br. Soosai Dennis SDB on 14 March 2020.
- ✚ To all the Salesians of Indian provinces and in particular to Fr. K.M Jose and the Salesians of INM at the sudden demise of Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju SDB Bishop of Vellore on 21 March 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Rose Ezarath and the sisters of the province at the demise of Sr. Mary George Uzhunnalil who had been a great missionary on 27 March 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Bridget Jacob at the loss of her elder brother Mr. Joy on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

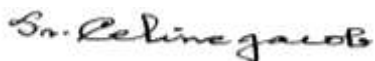
*May they Souls Rest in Peace!*

As I conclude I would like to remind ourselves once again the General theme of the Centenary as well as the particular theme for the year 2019- 2020.

Theme: **With Mary through the Course of the Century (1922-2022) and beyond... 2019-20 *Give thanks: "Let us truly thank the Lord who gives us many graces" (L37, 10)***  
Living our FMA Identity with Gratitude

**Dear sisters, let us try to deepen the FMA identity through the personal study and community sharing on the 1<sup>st</sup> seven articles of our Constitutions so that the FMA identity will be lived in joy and gratitude thus inspiring the young people in our mission to follow the charism of our holy founders.**

Yours affectionately



*Sr. Céline Jacob*  
*Provincial*