



**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/1**

**June 2020**

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

We are strengthened and fortified by the Holy Spirit with the fervent preparation and celebration of the Pentecost Sunday in this particular situation of COVID 19 Pandemic. The new academic year we are beginning this year is much different from other years. There are lot of uncertainties, anxieties, fears, and confusions with regard to everything. May the spirit fill us with his gifts and fruits so as to discern God's will and to read the signs of the times wisely, reaching out to people in the best way possible.

As we begin this new academic year I would like to thank God for all the good that has been accomplished in the past year by all our communities. I am sure you are studying the present situations and making arrangements prudently to reach the places of your new mission safely. While we thank God for His protection over us, let us continue to pray for all those who are suffering due to COVID 19. Let us surrender the entire world into the flaming heart of Jesus, as we have entered into the month of the Sacred Heart.

Our Mother General Yvonne Reungoat in her circular 997 exhorts us with the missionary dimension of faith. She says: faith is not an idea but a life. Faith is an ever new relationship with the Lord. In the current context there emerge fundamental questions about the meaning of existence, about the uncertain future that opens before us and the new generations about what awaits us after this great crisis. We cannot silence these questions that challenges us as Christians and Educators. They are questions that touch the depths of our life of faith. They cannot remain dormant. They must awaken to the calls of history that teach us how to live this very troubled times but at the same time brings new opportunities. The presence of Mary precedes us and accompanies us on roads that are perhaps fatiguing, always in ascent, but sure. It is a journey that strengthens, communion among us and with the young and consolidates us in the conviction that in this dark time, we are called to proclaim with joy, faith in Jesus who assures us His close presence. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me". (Jn 14;1 His word is alive and real! He is present in the today of history and He will make us generators of new life if we remain in Him and He in us.

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## CELEBRATIONS

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### HOLY TRINITY – 7<sup>th</sup>

The feast of Holy Trinity invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. From the day of our Baptism, we have belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The love, unity and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our communities and families become truly Christian when we live in loving relationship with God and with others. Like God who sent the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Let us become aware of the presence of Holy Trinity and pray this short prayer: Most Holy Trinity, who live in me, I praise You, I worship You, I adore You and I love You. Let the Son lead us to the Father through the Spirit, to live with the Triune God forever and ever.

### CORPUS CHRISTI – 11<sup>th</sup>

The solemn feast of Corpus Christi is three feasts in one: the feast of the **Eucharistic sacrifice**, feast of the **Sacrament of the Eucharist** and the feast of the **Real Presence of Jesus**. It is a doctrinal feast established for three purposes: **1)** to give God collective thanks for Christ's abiding presence with us in the Eucharist and to honor him there; **2)** to instruct the people in the Mystery, Faith and devotion surrounding the Eucharist, and **3)** to teach us to appreciate and make use of the great gift of the Holy Eucharist, both as a Sacrament and as a sacrifice. As we receive the Body and Blood of Christ daily, let us receive it with fervent love and respect and with the awareness that by receiving Holy Communion we become Christ-bearers as Mary was, with the duty of carrying Christ to others at home and in the workplace, as love, mercy, forgiveness, simplicity and sacrificial service.

### SACRED HEART OF JESUS – 19<sup>th</sup>

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is not a peripheral devotion, but it is to honour and love God which is the heart of our faith and is centred on the heart of Jesus as the emblem of Divine love. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is deeply rooted in the life of Christian people and is practiced in the universal Church. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to Jesus Christ Himself, but in particular ways of meditating on his interior life and on His threefold love: His divine love, His burning love that fed His

human will and His sensible love that affects His interior life. For all Catholic men and women, families and young people troubled by the many afflictions of modern life, this devotion has been a great source of consolation. In his vision to St Margaret Mary Jesus expressed his desire of being loved by humankind and on each one he would bestow his immense treasures of love, mercy, grace, sanctification and salvation. He promised that wherever this image should be exposed with a view to showing it special honour, he would pour forth his blessings and graces. In return, he wants nothing other than our total love. God wants us to love him without reserve. This is what devotion to the Sacred Heart is all about. Let us grow in our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Patron of our Province and carry on spreading this devotion through the First Friday practices in our communities. It is an appropriate time to consecrate to the heart of Jesus the entire world during this time of Pandemic, that He may save the world and the entire humanity from this deadly Virus. I thank dear Sr. Margrat Mathai for the efforts put in to prepare the novena practices. Let the practices enable us to prepare ourselves for this solemnity.

#### IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY – 20<sup>th</sup>

The image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is portrayed as having been pierced with seven wounds, symbolizing the Seven Sorrows of Mary. We remember the words of the prophet Simeon – “your soul will be pierced by a sword” (Luke 2:25-40) whenever we look at the image of the Immaculate Heart. The Immaculate Heart has also been depicted in various Marian apparitions such as in Fatima when she appeared to the three children and in France when she appeared to Saint Catherine Laboure. As we celebrate the Feast of Mary’s heart, we entrust our hearts to her. Like her who always submitted herself to the will of God, may we also learn to totally entrust our lives to God who is full of love and goodness.

#### NATIVITY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – 24<sup>th</sup>

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: John spent his time in the desert, as an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental transformation of life. The greatness of John, and his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself. Both are made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly referred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus, and a call for repentance. We must have that same attitude of John in becoming small as we seek to follow Jesus. The repentance John preached was a turning away from sin and selfishness and a turning of our whole hearts to the Father. We must decrease so that, like John, we can grow strong in the Spirit, until Christ is made manifest in each of us.

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL- 29<sup>th</sup>

Peter, a poor fisherman, was called by Christ to lead and care for Christ's entire flock: "Feed my sheep!" (Jn 21:17). It was Peter who received a vision confirming that the Good News was to be preached to those the Jews considered unclean, the pagan Gentiles (cf. Acts 10:9-16). Paul, the former Pharisee carried out this missionary mandate. In the course of his preaching he was flogged, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and attacked by brigands (cf. 2 Cor. 11:24-27). Both Peter and Paul ended their ministry in Rome around the year 54. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified upside-down and Paul beheaded by the sword. Everything passes, only God remains. Indeed, kingdoms, peoples, cultures, nations, ideologies, powers have passed, but the Church, founded on Christ, notwithstanding the many storms and our many sins, remains ever faithful to the deposit of faith shown in service; for the Church does not belong to Popes, bishops, priests, nor faithful laity; the Church in every moment belongs solely to Christ. Only the one who lives in Christ promotes and defends the Church by holiness of life, after the example of Peter and Paul. In the name of Christ, believers have raised the dead; they have healed the sick; they have loved their persecutors; they have shown how there is no power capable of defeating the one who has the power of faith! As we celebrate this feast let us be firm in our faith that nothing may shake us. Let us be generous with our special prayers for our Holy Father Pope Francis.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

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### NEW CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER XXIV

After having made an appropriate discernment together with the council members and taking into consideration of COVID 19 pandemic and its consequences on the world, Mother General Yvonne Reungoat with her circular 998 officially convoked General Chapter XXIV according the norms of art. 138 of the constitutions. The Chapter will begin in Rome at the Generalate on 17 April 2021 and is expected to conclude on 19 May 2021. Let us continue to entrust ourselves to Mother Mary that she may help us to awaken the original freshness of the Institutes' Vocational Fruitfulness.

### TOWARDS CENTINARY CELEBRATIONS

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to remind you to continue with greater enthusiasm the study and reflection on the FMA identity with gratitude which we have initiated last year. May the study of the articles of the constitutions 1-7 and the profile of the FMA enable each one of us to live concretely our identity with joy & commitment. Once the communities are formed, from July some animations with regard to this will be send from the Province till November 2020.

### INITIATION TO NOVITIATE

Our six postulants A SHARMISTA Joy, KHARKONGOR Phibakordor, LAKASHIANG Auxilia, MARIA Jasmine, RAJAN Biji and S. SANGAMA Salome were initiated into novitiate on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 on the feast of Mary Mother of the Church. I thank Sr. Annie Thoppil for accompanying them in this process and Sr. Thresia Augustine and community for closely following them till they reach Sacred Heart Training Centre Bangalore. Kindly keep them in your prayers.

## A CLARION CALL OF POPE FRANCIS - A SPECIAL YEAR OF LAUDATO SI'

On May 24, 2020, as we celebrated the feast of the Ascension of the Lord and on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Encyclical **Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis declared an year of intense nurturing of Mother Earth till May 24, 2021. He also introduced a new prayer for the care of creation which we had already sent to you along with the Power Point presentation of Fr Gilbert Choondal SDB, who emphasized on care for Mother **Earth**. I am sure you will make use of it in the community as well as in the mission.

### THANK YOU!

- My sincere thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and the Provincial House Community for making the necessary arrangements for the First Profession and Final Profession even during this time of crisis and lockdown. I also take this opportunity to thank all the animators of communities of Bannerghatta, Gavaravaram, Hassan Kunnamangalam, Mittappally, Chandur, Sec. Navajeevana, Varakkad, Nandigama, Warangal & Khammam for creating the ambient for three days animation, one day recollection and for receiving their vows. A special word of Thanks and Appreciation to dear Sr. Alice Chacko for animating the temporary professed sisters ONLINE from 20 – 22 May. Let us pray that God may keep them faithful till the end of their life.
- A special word of gratitude and appreciation to the Provincial - Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal and to Sr. Lydia Komuhra and her community at Auxilium Guwahati, for accompanying two of our Junior Sisters with much love and attention for the past one year, during the time of their intensive Juniorate. Thank you Sr. Alphonsa for receiving the vows of our Sr. Wari Rwisumwi, Sr. Sumathi Bulla & Sr. Frinsha Francis on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### CONGRATULATIONS

A Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Pauria, who assumes his office as the seventeenth Provincial of Calcutta Province. We assure you of our prayers for a fruitful ministry as the guide and leader of the Province.

### WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome to all the Salesian Provincials & the delegates who were held up in Valdocco, after the Chapter. Let us thank God they have arrived in Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> June and continue with our prayers till they reach their respective Provinces.

### REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ❖ I Kindly request prayers for my brother who has to undergo surgery for multiple fractures due to a road accident.
- ❖ For mother of Sr. Annamma Joseph who had a fall and is still in the hospital.

**Let us continue to pray for the eradication of Corona Virus from the face of the earth and for all the people who are affected by it.**

### SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To dear Sr. Rosy Lopez at the demise of her cousin sister on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

- ✚ To Fr. Provincial and the Confreres of Mumbai Province at the demise of Fr Byron Anthony D'Silva on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- ✚ Condolences to our Salesian brothers especially to the Province of Bangalore at the demise of Fr. Stephen Kuncherakatt SDB. Many of our sisters had been his students in our novitiate at Bangalore. He died in Jerusalem in the Salesian Theologate. We express our deep sentiments of condolences and offer our prayers for his eternal repose.

*May their Souls Rest in Peace!*

## **CONCLUSION**

I House wish each one of you a very Happy feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus the patron of our Province. I extent our festal greetings and prayers to all the Salesians of the Sacred Heart Province Bangalore. My special greetings to Sacred Heart Provincial House, Sacred Heart Training Centre Bangalore, Sacred Heart Home Karunapuram and Sacred Heart Kattappana. May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts with His love.

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob  
Provincial*

**HAPPY FEAST to All!**

