



Provincial Circular - INK

*Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Bangalore*



XXV/4

September 2017

My dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from the provincial house Bangalore!

At the outset I bring you loving greetings from dear Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the General visiting Councillor and the presiding Councillor for FMA- PCI.

The FMA – PCI 2017 which was held at Lonavla from 29- 31st August 2017 was a time of blessing for 28 of us from all the 7 provinces of India. We had a beautiful experience of togetherness and sharing. Sr. Lucy rose in her Key note address helped us to reflect on the two symbols of Mornese: the **well** and the **window** which signifies the depth and the vision which we should acquire for true encounter that which lead us to transformation. We are very grateful to Sr. Lucy Rose for her sisterly presence and wise animation. The National Coordinators presented the reports of the different sectors very diligently and creatively. Another salient feature of the PCI was planning for the forth coming Triennial Verification at the PCI level which will take place from 24-28th January 2018 at Kolkata. The group discussed and planned for the Centenary of the FMA presence in India, which will be celebrated in 2022 with three years of preparation. The last day we had the animation from Fr. Varghese Alengadan who put a lot of fire into our hearts and enlightened us to make religious life and mission relevant in the fast changing scenario of India.

CELEBRATIONS

STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

Michael means, “Who is like God?” Of the three angels mentioned by name in the Catholic Bible, St. Michael the Archangel is mentioned the most. He is found in the Old Testament in Daniel 10:13-21, 10:21, 12:1, and in the New Testament in Rev. 12:7-9 and Jude 1:9.

St. Michael is most known for doing battle against Lucifer (who was probably a seraph) and casting him and the fallen angels out of heaven. Because of this feat, he is known as the leader or

prince of the angels. St. Michael is the champion of God's people and the protector of the Church. He is also regarded as the angel who brings the souls of men to their judgment before God, thus being the angel of judgment.

Gabriel means "Power of God." St. Gabriel the Archangel is mentioned the most in the Bible after St. Michael. He is found in the Old Testament in Daniel 8:15-26 and 9:21-27, and in the New Testament in Luke 1:11-38. St. Gabriel is most known for his messenger role in the Annunciation. He is the angel who appeared to Zachariah and the Blessed Virgin Mary announcing the birth of St. John the Baptist and Incarnation of Jesus Christ, respectively. He is also believed by some to be the angel who appeared to St. Joseph and the shepherds at Christ's nativity, as well as the angel who comforted Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Because of this he is known as the herald angel, and the angel of mercy and consolation.

Raphael means "God has healed." St. Raphael the Archangel is only mentioned once in the Catholic Bible, in Tobit chapter 12.

In this passage he was a companion, protector, and healer. He is also believed to be the angel who stirred the water in the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, giving it its healing properties, as mentioned in the New Testament. He therefore is regarded as a healing angel and a companion angel.

Let us seek the protection of these Angels, that we may be led in the path of holiness.

Community as a concrete/lived experience of communion (koinonia)

In continuation with my reflection on communion last month we shall try to continue to reflect on the same theme as we are preparing ourselves for the silver jubilee of the province.

Community can rightly be experienced as the privileged place of fraternal communion with Christ, with self, with others and with the poor. It is in community that we experience a personal love of God, and it is where we give and receive love from our sisters. In community we are enriched, we are empowered for the mission, but we do not receive these gifts for ourselves. Rather, they are for the world that is thirsting for genuine witnesses. Pope John Paul II has said this clearly in his Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*: "By virtue of their dedication lived in fullness and in joy, consecrated women, are called in a very special way to be signs of God's tender love towards the human race and to be special witnesses to the mystery of the Church, virgin, bride and mother." (VC 57) Community needs, then, to be fraternal and life giving; it is this togetherness that generates life in abundance, a life which engenders a sense of urgency and a passion for mission among the poor of our world.

According to the African understanding, community has a meaningful, personal and collective identity: "I am, because we are, and since we are, therefore I am". Indeed, people in the African cultures see community as the center of life just as the heart is for human body. It is viewed as a gift from God of the highest value. It is because of individual persons that the community is able to exist. In other words, the community 'is' because of the individual persons who 'constitute it'. It is the contribution of the uniqueness of each and every person—not alone but living together in unity—that creates/builds/constitutes community. Individual uniqueness includes the giftedness, the joys, the sorrows and the weaknesses/limitations of each and everyone in the community. It is when the uniqueness of the person is allowed expression and is appreciated that she becomes free, blossoms, and gives life to others in the community.

Community life needs to be a personal and free choice. Persons really need to make this choice willingly and without being forced. This choice we make in accordance with the rule of life and charism of our Institute. But, once we make the choice we are called to live accordingly

and to take full responsibility for a word given. “I am because we are”. This African understanding can be compared with the analogy of the body as writes St Paul in (I Cor: 12). It is a life of sharing in all its dimensions: spiritual, personal, psychological, and social and relational personal gifts... Another example is found in the Acts of the Apostles in reference to the early Christian community. All was shared in common and no one was in need. (Acts 2: 44).

Is this spirit of the early Christian community alive today? Or is it gone? If so, are we able/willing to revive and kindle it? Do we consider community essential today? Community life of tomorrow is in our hands. How are we going to shape it or perhaps even how will we endeavour to revive it? What concrete steps are we going to take to make our dream become a reality? Again, let us read the words of Pope John Paul II:

“The fraternal and human dimensions of the consecrated life call for self-knowledge and the awareness of personal limitations, so as to offer its members the inspiration and support needed on the path towards perfect freedom. In present-day circumstances and especially in formation centers, special importance must be given to establishing the degree of interior freedom of consecrated persons, their effective maturity, their ability to communicate with others, especially in their own community, their serenity of spirit, their compassion for those who are suffering, their love for the truth, and a correspondence between their actions and their words. ” (VC 71)

Indeed, community does not just happen; it must be developed, fostered and constantly nurtured. The image that comes to my mind, and which is universal to us all, is that of a plant. First of all, a plant in order to exist needs to be sown or planted. Then, it has to be watered and sometimes nurtured with fertilizers, especially when it is weak. At times, a person or various people take the responsibility of rendering this service to the plant. It is the same for the life of the community. Indeed, community is not an artificial, mechanical or computer-like entity; it is not a microwave! It is a demanding reality. Without constant vigilance, community cannot exist. The role of vigilance is not merely for superiors general or for older members; it is to be exercised by all members, by you and by me. We are all called to contribute to the building of a life together. Building an evangelical community is costly in dedication, energy, time and talents. While community living is a great privilege, it is also a grave responsibility. In actual fact, community living can only become an enriching and life giving experience in and for mission, when members take their responsibility seriously and make a sustained genuine personal contribution.

Triennial Verification

We are coming closer to the very important stage of our Triennial Verification. This demands from us prayerful reflection and docility to the Holy Spirit.

I am sure you have received the information send by Sr. Margaret Mathai the general Coordinator about the process of Triennial Verification. Let us sincerely do it in the light of the Word of God.

COMMUNICATIONS

ANIMATION FOR SISTERS (1991-2000)

A renewal programme was conducted from 7-10 September. The theme: Wholeness to holiness. The resource person was Mr. Thaddeus Alfonso). Every one appreciated this programme and valued it for their personal growth and mission.

ANIMATION FOR SISTERS (2001-2011)

There will be a renewal programme conducted for the sisters professed between 2001-2011 in Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore, from October 19th -22nd.

ANIMATION FOR ANIMATORS AND ECONOMERS

There will be an animation programme for Superiors and Economers on 4th & 5th November, regarding GST and other Financial matters by Mr. Mark D'Souza CA from Bangalore. Kindly make arrangements for your travels.

MID – TERM AUDITING

15th September in Thiruthiparambu- Kerala, 22nd September in Andhra & Telengana & 29th in Karnataka.

SOCIAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop on NCP for the sisters in charge of Social Ministry and VTC on 29th September 1st October in Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore.

BUON VOYAGE

We wish happy and safe journey to Sr. Molly Joseph who will be attending the course for Novice Mistresses from 29th September to 29th October. May she have a wonderful experience at the heart of the Church and centre of the Institute.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

For the mother of Sr. Sheela Jacob, Sr. Anitha Gothi, Sr. Shobha Rani, Sr. Mary Karuvelil and Sr. Rwisumwi Wari who are sick and admitted in the hospital.

CONDOLENCES

- To dear Sr. Rosily Theckanath at the passing away of her uncle on 10th August.
- To Rector Major and the Salesians at the sudden demise of Don Adriano Bregolin, ex-Vicar General of Salesian Congregation.
- To Dear Sr. Bridgit Kavalam at the loss of her paternal uncle Dr. Antony George Kavalam on 3rd September.
- Sr. Isabella Suja and the Sisters of Shillong Province at the passing away of Sr. Erina Susngi FMA on 7th September 2017.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

*Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial.*