



# Provincial Circular - INK

*Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Bangalore*



XXV/5

October 2017

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My dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from the provincial house Bangalore!

In continuation with reflection that we are making, this month I would like to focus on the aspect of **Compassion**. We shall do it with the help of “**REJOICE!**”

**A letter to consecrated men and women, A message from the teachings of Pope Francis**

## **The restlessness of love**

As living icons of the motherhood and of the closeness to the Church, we go out to those who are waiting for the Word of consolation and we bend down with motherly love and fatherly spirit towards the poor and the weak.

The Pope invites us *not to privatise love*, but with the restlessness of the seeker: “Tirelessly seeking the good of the other, of the beloved”. We are called now, as the Church, to go outside in order to arrive at the margins, geographic, urban and existential – the margins of the mystery of sin, pain, injustice and misery –, to the hidden places of the soul where each person experiences the joys and sufferings of life.

“We live in a culture of conflict, a culture of fragmentation, a culture of waste [...]. Yet poverty for us is a theological category, “because our God, the Son of God, abased himself, he made himself poor to walk along the road with us. [...] A poor Church for the poor begins by reaching out to the flesh of Christ. If we reach out to the flesh of Christ, we begin to understand something, to understand what this poverty, the Lord’s poverty, actually is”. To experience in one’s own life the beatitude of the poor means to be a sign that the anguish of loneliness and limitation has been conquered by the joy of the person who is indeed free in Christ and has learned how to love.

During his pastoral visit to Assisi, Pope Francis was asked what the Church must strip away. And he replied: “[Strip away] every action that is not for God, is not of God; strip away the fear of opening the doors and going out to encounter all, especially the poorest of the poor, the needy, the remote, without waiting. Certainly not to get lost in the shipwreck of the world, but to bear

with courage the light of Christ, the light of the Gospel, even in the darkness, where one can't see, where one might stumble.

On the road to Emmaus, like Jesus with his disciples, we welcome in daily companionship the joys and sorrows of the people, giving them 'heart warmth', while we tenderly care for the tired and the weak, so that our journey together has light and meaning in Christ.

Our journey together "matures towards pastoral fatherhood, towards pastoral motherhood, and when a priest is not a father to his community, when a sister is not a mother to all those with whom she works, he or she becomes sad. This is the problem. For this reason I say to you: the root of sadness in pastoral life is precisely in the absence of fatherhood or motherhood that comes from living this consecration unsatisfactorily, which on the contrary should lead us to fertility".

Pope Francis recommends for us *restless searching* just like Augustine of Hippo: a "restlessness in his heart which brought him to a personal encounter with Christ, brought him to understand that the remote God he was seeking was the God who is close to every human being, the God close to our heart, who was more inward than our innermost self". This is an ongoing search. "Augustine did not stop, he did not give up, he did not withdraw into himself like those who have already arrived, but continued his search. The *restlessness of seeking the truth*, of seeking God, became restlessness to know him ever better and to come out of himself to make others know him. It was precisely the restlessness of love." May we grow each day towards true compassion and tenderness of heart.

### **Welcome home, Rev.Fr.Tom Uzhunnalil SDB**

We rejoice with Fr.Tom, the Salesian Province of Bangalore and the whole world for his safe return home. Fr.Tom's happy return is a living miracle of God. The terrifying ordeal of 18 months has come to an end giving him a new leaf on life. We were indeed fortunate to welcome him to our provincial house on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October on his way to KGF. It was an unforgettable and moving experience for the sisters and staff of the 3 communities in the campus. After a short welcome, thanks giving, photo session, sharing and tea he left us this message: God has a plan and mission for each one of us, and to complete that mission He permits certain events to happen, people to meet and all this is for our own sanctification and for the sanctification of others. He also reminded us to be strong in our vocation and do everything with the blessings of the superiors. He exhorted us to pray for all those who are still in captivity in the different parts of the world. This short meeting came to a close with a blessing from Fr.Tom.

### **PCI Youth Ministry Meet**

I am just back after the beautiful experience of PCI Youth Ministry Meet at Auxilium, Provincial House, Guwahati from September 25 to 30, on the theme: "the FMA educational mission, a journey towards fullness of life." I am sure Srs.Annie, Ancy, Bridget & Showrilu would agree with me that these days of prayer, reflection and sharing has renewed in us the conviction that the educational mission is the place where we daily meet God in the young people, form ourselves for it and get formed and transformed by it. The importance of Educating community was also highlighted. We are grateful to all those who have worked for its success. I place on record the effective animation of Sr. Runita G. Borja, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry and her collaborator Sr. Lolia Annie Neli. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Sr. Elizabeth George, the Provincial of Guwahati and her collaborators for the excellent arrangements made. A special word of thanks to Sr. Lissy Rose Mathew, the animator of the Provincial House and all the sisters specially the juniors for their family spirit, availability and sisterly help.

# CELEBRATIONS -----

## MISSION SUNDAY

The 91st World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 22 October 2017. In his Message, on the theme Mission at the heart of the Christian faith, the Holy Father writes: "it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. What is the basis of our mission? What is the heart of our mission? What are the essential approaches we need to take in carrying out our mission?"

It is also a privileged time for us FMAs as we are celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1st Missionary expedition. As we are already preparing ourselves to celebrate this event let us try to assimilate the missionary spirit which is our patrimony and I would like to suggest that every community celebrate this special time with intensity from October 14<sup>th</sup> and to conclude it on 14<sup>th</sup> November with a meaningful celebration thus renewing the missionary ardour in sisters and in the educating communities.

## ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS

St. Thérèse was born January 2, 1873 in Alençon, France to pious parents. Her mother died when she was four, leaving her father and elder sisters to raise her. She devoted herself to living a life of holiness, doing all things with love and childlike trust in God. She struggled with life in the convent, but decided to make an effort to be charitable to all, especially those she didn't like. She performed little acts of charity always, and little sacrifices not caring how unimportant they seemed. These acts helped her come to a deeper understanding of her vocation.

She wrote in her autobiography that she had always dreamed of being a missionary, an Apostle, a martyr – yet she was a nun in a quiet cloister in France. How could she fulfil these longings?

“Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was burning with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I understood that Love comprised all vocations, that Love was everything, that it embraced all times and places...in a word, that it was eternal! Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it...My vocation is Love!”

## FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

Devotion to the angels is, at base, an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day in and day out. Each person on earth has a guardian angel who watches over him and helps him to attain his salvation. Angelical guardianship begins at the moment of birth; prior to this, the child is protected by the mother's guardian angel. This protection continues throughout our whole life and ceases only when our probation on earth ends, namely, at the moment of death. Our guardian angel accompanies our soul to purgatory or heaven, and becomes our coheir in the heavenly kingdom. Let us be ever vigilant and sensitive, to experience the protecting presence of our spiritual and angelic associates who are as near to us as we are to ourselves! Let us also become visible guardian Angels to the young who are entrusted to us.

## **FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

St. Francis of Assisi abandoned a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. Francis's embrace of Christ-like poverty was a radical notion at the time. Francis set out on a mission to restore Jesus Christ's own, original values to the now-decadent church. Continuously pushing himself in the quest for spiritual perfection, Francis was soon preaching in up to five villages per day, teaching a new kind of emotional and personal Christian religion that everyday people could understand. Let us also be inspired by this great saint like our Pope Francis. Let us imitate this great and simple saint in our daily life.

## **BL. ALBERTO MARVELLI**

On 5<sup>th</sup> October we keep the memory of Bl. Alberto Marvelli. Born on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 he was an oratorian in Turin and later joined the military service where he distinguished himself as a good and fervent Christian. Marian and Eucharistic devotion were the supporting columns in his life: In June 1930 the Marvelli family moved to Rimini and Alberto began to attend the Salesian Oratory and Catholic Action group in the parish, where his faith was nurtured and sustained, increasing his awareness of his call to holiness. He would often say, "My programme of life is summed up in one word: holy". Young man who was strong and free and a generous son of the Church of Rimini and of Catholic Action, considered his brief life of only 28 years as a gift of love to Jesus for the good of his brethren. "He was, as Don Bosco wanted, a good Christian and upright citizen, committed to the Church and society with a Salesian heart. He was beatified on 5 September 2004, at Loreto, Italy, by Pope John Paul II.

## **FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

Devotion to Holy Rosary is a powerful prayer, after the Holy Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church has ever found. It is the presentation of a Crown of Roses, a spiritual Bouquet to our Mother. One point that all of us should bear in mind is that praying of the Holy Rosary is not just a popular devotion in the Catholic Church. It is a biblical prayer that invites all the Christians to pray it. Let us take the family ministry seriously. Let us visit the families of children and young people in our Institutions because as we know, evangelization of our students becomes easy and effective through the Family ministry. Let us intensify our love for our Blessed Mother and the holy rosary as we are in the centenary year of Our Lady's apparition in Fatima.

## **BL. ALESSANDRINA**

Alessandrina Maria da Costa was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1904 at Balasar in Portugal. When she was 14 years old she jumped from a window into the garden at home to safeguard her virtue when it was under threat from some evil-intentioned young men. Five years later, the damage caused by the fall left her totally paralysed and she was bed-ridden for more than 30 years. She was looked after by her elder sister.

Bl. Alessandrina was a great mystic. Being in constant union with Jesus in the world's tabernacles, she was the subject of ecstasies and revelations. The Lord provided that her second spiritual director be a Salesian, Fr Umberto Pasquale, who kept her diary. She then asked to be a Salesian Cooperator. She said: "I feel I am in great union with the Salesians and with the Cooperators all over the world. And frequently I witness to my belonging to them and offer my suffering, united with them all, for the salvation of the young! So here we have a woman of God who offered her suffering for the salvation of the young people.

## **ST. TERESA OF AVILA PATRONESS OF OUR INSTITUTE**

‘St Teresa of Avila was one of the great Christian mystics. Overcoming physical ailments, she became fully absorbed in her devotion to God’. Teresa is one of the foremost writers on mental

prayer, and her position among writers on mystical theology is unique. In all her writings on this subject she deals with her personal experiences. Her deep insight and analytical gifts helped her to explain them clearly. Her definition was used in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Contemplative prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us." She used a metaphor of mystic prayer as watering a garden throughout her writings. Let the life of our patron saint be an inspiration for us and let these thoughts instil our daily life as we celebrate her feast. "Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

## **BL. MICHAEL RUA**

Born in Turin on June 9, 1837, the youngest of nine children, Michael came to the Oratory in 1852. One day, Don Bosco told him: "We will go halves in everything." He was among the first group to whom Don Bosco suggested the formation of the Salesian Society. For 36 years, he was his closest collaborator in all stages of the development of the Congregation. At the explicit request of the Founder, in 1884, Pope Leo XIII named him to succeed Don Bosco and he confirmed him as Rector Major in 1888. Fr. Rua was seen as the 'living Rule' because of his austere fidelity, yet he also displayed a fatherly spirit that was capable of great thoughtfulness, so much so that he was known as 'a king of kindness.' Don Rua sent Salesians all over the world, showing special care for the missionary expeditions. May the missionary zeal of the first Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians urge us today to take this responsibility seriously and to the heart.

# COMMUNICATIONS

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## **ANIMATION FOR ANIMATORS AND ECONOMERS**

There will be an animation programme for Superiors and Economers on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November, regarding GST and other financial matters by Mr. Mark D'Souza CA from Bangalore.

## **ARRIVAL OF RECTOR MAJOR**

We have the joy of welcoming our beloved Rector Major Fr. Fernandez Artime Angel on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the provincial house and to participate in the Eucharistic celebration which will be solemnised by him in our chapel.

## **TRIENNIAL EVALUATION AND PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY**

The study, reflection, Sharing and prayer towards the Triennial Evaluation in the local communities reaches its climax on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November as we share our experiences and celebrate our togetherness as a province. I am sure this is going to be a life changing experience as we journey together with the disciples of Emmaus in the company of the Risen Lord. We will conclude the celebration with our expressions of gratitude to God and one another on 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **NATIONAL MEETING OF MISSION AD GENTES DELEGATES**

There will be a meeting at the national level of Mission ad Gentes delegates (PCI) at Nandigama from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November and 8 of our sisters from different communities will be participating in it.

## REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ✓ For Sr. Elizabeth George who is recovering after the operation due to a fall
- ✓ For all our sick and ailing sisters, parents and dear ones.

## CONDOLENCES

- To dear Sr. Maria Goretti at the passing away of her nephew Bimal aged 21 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September in a tragic accident.

Praying of the holy rosary helps us to contemplate all that God in His love has fulfilled for us and for our salvation, and enables us to understand that our life is joined to that of Christ. By praying, we bring everything to God: our hardships, our wounds and our fears, but also our joys, our gifts, people dear to us... all to God. In prayer, we allow God to enter in our time, to receive and transfigure all that we live. Make frequent use of this powerful tool that is the prayer of the Holy Rosary, so that it may bring peace to hearts, to families, in the Church and in the world. Satan is frightened terribly of the Holy Rosary. Let us keep him away from us by holding on to this powerful weapon.

**W I S H Y O U A L L A F R U I T F U L  
M O N T H O F R O S A R Y !**

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob  
Provincial.*

