



XXV/9

February 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from the provincial house Bangalore!

MUSINGS ON SILVER JUBILEE

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His love endures forever.”

On 31st May 2017 the Silver Jubilee flame was lit in the presence of significant number of sisters representing the province and it remained ablaze in front of Our Blessed Mother all through the year, as we initiated the year of jubilee with her blessings. The sisters along with the educating community started the preparations for the mega event of the silver jubilee of the Province, recalling together the wonders God has worked in the years past and works in the events present. The communities commenced, preparing for the event spiritually and materially, a year ago. At the very first meeting of the animators the jubilee logo was presented to the communities.

The yearlong celebrations and renewal programs came to its culmination on the 4th February 2018, indeed a momentous day for the young, old and the youngest along with the vast educating community of the province, the youth both past and present, the other members of the Salesian family and the educators, gathered around the Eucharistic Lord, to celebrate our gratitude by raising the hands and hearts in thanks to the Almighty. Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Vazhappilly the Bishop Emeritus of Mysore diocese, the main celebrant, concelebrated with the distinguished priests of the diocese Rev. Fr. Jayanathan, the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Xavier Manavath CMF, the Episcopal Vicar for Religious and Rev. Fr. Joyce Thonikuzhiyil SDB, the Provincial of Bangalore, Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB, the provincial of Hyderabad and a large number of Salesians, whose presence was certainly moments of blessings and thanksgiving. The creative and meaningful liturgy by the different communities added solemnity to the occasion. Thanks to everyone.

The gracious presence of our dear Sr. Lucy Rose, the visiting General councilor was a special privilege indeed. We experienced the presence of our dear Mother General in her. A Million Thanks to You dear Sr. Lucy Rose for your generous availability on this auspicious occasion. Your presence was a blessing! The Provincials of Trichy and Chennai deserve a special word of thanks together with their sisters for their sisterly and encouraging presence.

The Mega cultural program staged was the apex of all our celebrations, *Mornese to Bangalore* which was the brain work of many of our communities. My special thanks to all the communities who worked hard to get ready the artists, and to give a startling contour to it. May God bless you all for the sincere, loving effort and total involvement. A special word of thanks to Sr. Margaret Mathai, who coordinated it skillfully.

The youth meet proceeding the celebration was well organized and effectively executed by Sr. Bridget Jacob and her team. It was indeed a joy to watch large number of young people filling the campus with their joyous laughter and lively presence. I wholeheartedly thank you dear sisters and young people.

The back bone of the celebration was the vice Provincial Sr. Elizabeth Pothen, Sr. Saly Abraham the provincial economer, Sr. Monica Thomas the general convener and the campus communities who collaborated with them to make this celebration an experiential one. They planned, entreated for God's guidance, toiled and implemented, one in heart and soul and turned their nights into days for months to make the celebration a remarkable one. Together with them all the other provincial councilors joined hands to make this celebration an unforgettable experience.

Well, dear sisters, an event like this cannot happen overnight. The wheels start rolling months ago. It requires planning and a bird's eye for details. I cannot thank everyone enough for their involvement and their willingness to take on the completion of tasks beyond their comfort zones! I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to all the sisters of the province for your years of toil and commitment in different capacities and for your enormous cooperation in the organization of this event.

It is said, 'we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors'. I cannot conclude my thanksgiving without mentioning the names of Sr. Ruby Korah, Sr. Cecilia Thomas, Sr. Rosy Malayatty, Sr. Crescentia D'Almeida and their teams for making our province what it is today.

Dear Sisters let us continue living the spirit of the jubilee and hopefully look ahead to the Golden days. Let us begin our life renewed and renovated with these experiences of God's benevolent presence in our province and continue living our life enhanced and enriched with the motto "Communion, Compassion and Commitment." May God bless us all!

BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF KANAKAKUNNU COMMUNITY

Another mile stone in the history of Bangalore province at Kanakakunnu. We rejoice and thank God for the completion of the convent at Kanakakunnu. For the past ten years the canonically erected community took its shelter in an old and dilapidated house and carried out the Social ministry, Parish apostolate and education ministry with much zeal and enthusiasm. 10th February 2018 is marked in the annals of Kanakakunnu in golden letters. At 10.a.m in the presence of Fathers, Sisters and a good number of Parishners, the convent was blessed by Rt. Rev. Mathew Anikuzhikattil DD, the Bishop of Idukki Diocese and inaugurated by our dear Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil the visiting General Councillor. Bishop in his message exhorted everyone to respect the sacredness of the holy places and to live in God's presence by listening to his Word. After the blessing the Bishop was thanked and felicitated for his fatherly love and concern. Since the health condition of Bishop was not so good he left and Rev Fr. Joseph Koyikal, the Parish Priest celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the new Chapel. After the Mass Sr. Mary Scaria, the animator of the community expressed her gratitude towards all the fathers, sisters, contractor and his team,

Parishners and well-wishers. The blessing and inauguration was concluded by the fellowship meal.

TRIENNIAL EVALUATION 2018

The historical moment of the Triennial Evaluation – FMA PCI, commenced on Wednesday, 24 January 2018, at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum, Kolkata. There are 42 participants including Mother Yvonne Reungoat, Sr. Alaide Deretti – General Councillor for Mission, Sr. Runita Borja - General Councillor for Youth Pastoral, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and Sr. Phyllis Neves - the visiting Councillors, seven Provincials of India, 2 delegates, a laity and a youth representatives from the seven Provinces of India.

The inaugural ceremony was amazing. There was a picturesque presentation of West Bengal in the form of songs, dances and tableaux. A musical play, titled “Transformation through encounter” depicted with high quality the theme of our Triennial Evaluation.

In the inaugural speech Mother spoke; let Jesus form and transform us, we must **let Him find us**, assimilate His sentiments, live with Him, hand ourselves over to Him to the point of *living in the Encounter and of the Encounter*.

In the encounter with Jesus, our whole being is illumined, transformed. It takes on another shape, another physiognomy – that of Jesus. Then, like Him, we feel the need to encounter others, to give ourselves in the mission that is His mission.

The encounter with Jesus leads to the encounter with others, changes our attitudes, expectations, hopes; it can give us happiness even amid the trials of life; allows us to face daily life with enthusiasm, makes us open and welcoming, generous in trusting, contagions others, and favors a culture of encounter.

In addition to the evaluation of three choices of Pastoral Conversion in our seven provinces, ‘**Transformation through encounter**’, ‘**Together with the young**’ and ‘**Missionaries of hope**’, there were sharing the prophetic gestures carried out by FMA India and suggesting courageous gestures that could be taken up as FMA India. ‘A presentation of the themes of the Recent General Chapters’ by Sr. Ozhukayil Lucy Rose helped the participants to propose two themes for GC XXIV.. “Guidelines for the Management of Goods in the FMA Institute” was presented by Sr. Borja Runita and “News of the Institute” by Sr. Neves Phyllis. The lay participants contributed through their friendly presence and valid suggestions and assurance of deeper collaboration in our mission.

A hearty congratulation and sincere THANKS to Sr. Rose Ezarath, Provincial of Kolkata and the FMA PCI President for the excellent organization and systematic and wonderful execution of FMA - PCI Triennial Evaluation and to all the Sisters of Kolkata Province in particular Sr. Lilly Perumpattikunnel, the contact person for PCI Triennial Evaluation, Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Vice Provincial and Animator of the Provincial House, Dum Dum and Sr. Mini Chettayil secretary of the PCI. More on Triennial Evaluation will be shared during Regional level Transmission by the participants Sr. Maria Goretti, Sr. Margaret Mathai and myself. I will also be sharing it during the forth coming retreats.

-----CELEBRATIONS-----

BLESSED EUSEBIA PALOMINO

Feast of Blessed Eusebia Palomino is celebrated on 9th February. Born in Salamanca-Spain in 1899, she came from a very poor family but one that was rich in faith and harmony. Her early years were marked by daily hard work as a maid in rich homes. Overcoming numerous difficulties, she fulfilled her dream of becoming a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians in 1924.

The girls always wanted to be near her, attracted by her spirituality. She began to work in the Oratory. Seminarians, adults and priests asked her advice, encouraged by her spirit of prayer and convinced and convincing faith. There is talk of many wonderful things that happened during her life. As we celebrate her feast, let us learn from Blessed Eusebia Palomino *to love and serve!*

SAINTS LUIGI VERSIGLIA AND CALLISTO CARAVARIO

We celebrate the feast of the Martyrs: Versiglia & Caravario on 25th of this month. St. (Bishop) Louis Versiglia was a true pastor, completely dedicated to his flock. He gave the Vicariate a solid structure with its own seminary, house of formation, and planned residences and hospitals for the elderly and those in need. He looked after the formation of catechists with much care. In his notes he wrote: At their beatification, in 1983, Pope John Paul II said that they were examples of 'the gospel ideal of the shepherd... who gives his life for his flock... for the cause of truth and justice, defending the weak and the poor, triumphing over the evils of sin and death. They were canonized on 1st October 2000. As we celebrate their feast may the Lord give us the same spirit of fervour, enthusiasm and sacrificing spirit.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY 2018

Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, the Vicar General has announced about the this year's World Gratitude Day. The theme of the Feast of Gratitude is expressed in the **Slogan:** "With the young, let the chords of life vibrate, witnessing to the joy of following Christ"

The Feast will be celebrated in the Province of St. Raphael, the Archangel, Paraguay, on 26 April 2018. The details of the celebrations will be reaching us soon. Let us raise our Mother General and the entire Institute in prayer that we may become joyful witnesses of Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS

Hearty Congratulations to Rev. Sr. Philomena Mathew who has been re-elected as the Superior General of MSMHC, and her Council: Sr. Christine Mynsong: Assistant General, Sr. Asha Maro: GC for Formation, Sr. Bridgett Diengdoh: GC Evangelization, Sr. Rose Paite: Re-elected as GC Social Apostolate, Sr. Katherine Joseph: GC Education and Sr. Ancila Joseph re-elected as Economer General.

SINCERE THANKS

My sincere gratitude to Sr. Monica and community at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore for Your spirit of hospitality and care shown to the Sisters who made their first annual retreat and the local Economers during their meeting from 2 -10 January, 2018. Besides this the community has welcomed happily numerous number of sisters for the silver Jubilee celebrations, Evaluation and planning. Thank you dear sisters.

BUON VIAGGIO

Happy to inform that Sr. Shiny Karackatt will be going to Rome to attend the course of the Secretary's from 5-17th March 2018. We wish her a safe journey and a happy stay in the heart of the Church and the centre of the Institute.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

In the month of February many of our students and sisters start their public exams. All the best and assurance of prayers to all the students and teachers. May you all come out in flying colours.

ANNUAL RETREATS

Annual retreat is a time to look within so as to make necessary changes in one's life. These are the dates of the forth coming retreats of the year. Let us keep all the retreatants in prayer. March 2-9, April 2-9, April 27 – 4th May & 16- 23. Let us also pray for the young people in formation who will apply for the next stage in formation, that they may do it with right discernment in a spirit of prayer and docility.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- For the Mother of Sr. Jayanthi Mary, who is critically ill with heart problem.
- For the 9 year old nephew of Sr. Jacintha Lobo who is suffering due to a serious blood infection.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences to all our fathers, sisters and their family members who lost their dear ones and assure them of our prayers for the dear departed:

- To Sr. Lucy Michael at the loss of her paternal uncle Mr. Mathew Thalachirayil aged 66
- To Sr. G. Jyothi, at the loss of her brother-in-law Mr. Raju aged 52 on 11 January
- To Sr. Smitha Thomas at the loss of her grandmother on 13 January
- To Sr. Dayana Rodrigues and her sister at the loss of her nephew Alan, just one and half month on 18 of January.
- To Srs. Elizabeth George & Mary Georg at the loss of their grandniece aged 7 on 29th of January.
- To Sr. Alice Sebastian and family at the demise of her beloved brother Mr. Kurian Sebastian aged 64 on 1 February
- I extend my deepest sympathies to Fr. Guria Nestor and the confreres of Dimapur Province at the passing away of Fr. Poonthuruthil James (PM) on 21 January.
- To Fr. George Maliekal and the confreres of Shillong Province at the passing away of Fr. Leonard Kharkongor 18 January aged 76.
- To Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel and the confreres of Chennai Province at the passing away of Fr. Stanislaus M. Fernandez SDB 19th January 85 aged in Don Bosco Senior Salesians Home, Aluva, Kerala.
- To Fr. V.M. Thomas and the confreres of Guwahati Province at the passing away of Fr. Joseph Pazhekadavan aged 86 who passed away on 7th February, 2018 after a road accident and Fr. Anthony Abong B. Marak aged 50 who passed away on 12th February
- To Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and Sisters of Tiruchirappalli Province at the sudden demise of Sr. Muthusamy Rosary aged 84 on 24th January
- To Sr. Rose Ezarath and Sisters of Kolkata Province at the unexpected death of Sr. Geraldine Barrat aged 66 on 26th January.

SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Many Catholics know that Lent is a season especially set aside for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and that it culminates in the Paschal Triduum and the Easter Season. In that spirit, many people “give up something for Lent, but it should be remembered that Lent is less about giving up things for the sake of giving them up and more about using this time to draw closer to God. If things are “given up,” they should be things that are keeping us from a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church. Lent is a time to ask ourselves what we can do to deepen our prayer life, our relationship with others, and what we do for the poor and the helpless in our midst. More than that, we are called to penance and

conversion of life, and to use the 40 days of Lent to deepen that conversion, and to redouble our efforts to grow in our own faith in such a way that our Lenten observances will take root outside of Lent and become norms for a deeper spiritual life for us.

As we remember our own sinfulness and need for redemption today, let all of us pledge anew to remember the meaning, on multiple levels, of the ashes we receive today. In doing so, we can all remember that Lent isn't just about giving things up, but about that continuing conversion to draw us ever closer to the Cross of Christ.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Céline Jacob

Sr. Céline Jacob
Provincial.

Wish you Holy Season of Lent!

