**XXVIII/6 November 2020**

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**My dearest Sisters,**

**Loving & Prayerful Greetings!**

The twin celebration of All saints Day and All souls Day reminds us about the goal of our life- that is holiness. As we commemorate and pray for all the Faithful Departed during the month of November, this is what Jesus says in Luke 20:38, “…He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him, all are alive” This Commemoration of the All Souls Day, is also a reminder of our own Death and the death of our dear ones. True, that as frail humans, we may have a natural fear and even a sort of phobia of death.… but our Christian Love, Faith and Hope must gain the upper-hand in us. Death is frightening for the faithless…… but for the faithful, it is the doorway to the Fountain of Faith! Death is horrifying for the loveless…… but for those who love, it is the passage to the Fullness of Love! Death is devastating for the hopeless…… but for those who hope, it is the entry to the Spring of Hope! Death is a reality. No amount of reflection or sermons can substitute the pain of this reality. Sometimes, in such situations, silence is the only answer that we can provide. But this silence ought to be a silence of hope, a silence of trust and a silence of faith. When we love God deeper, the fear of death decreases. When we have a stronger faith in God, the pain of death reduces. When we have an unshakeable hope in God, the anguish of death subsides. Let us also keep in mind, that this day of the “All Souls Day” as well as the Month of November is a time to gain Indulgences, that the Church offers.

**PREVENTIVE SYSTEM AS A SPIRITUALITY AND METHOD OF ACTION**

In continuation with the reflection on the identity of the FMA as part of the preparation for the Centenary Celebration, I invite all of us this month to reflect on the three most important elements of preventive system i.e.; Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness. With this we are completing the reflections on the articles on the Identity of the FMA. The reason for picking up this subject is to make ourselves once again conscious, of the responsibility of living the aspirations of our founders, so as to concentrate on our life as FMA and consecrated Salesian educators. The Pandemic has harmonized our life together in the community to a great degree and cemented it with love of God and neighbor and closeness to one another. It is a divine opportunity to live and Practice Preventive system in an inclusive way. May our Holy Founders sustain us with passion and help us uphold our aspirations.

I**.  THE SALESIAN PREVENTIVE SYSTEM:  REASON AND EDUCATIVE "REASONABLENESS"**

In the characteristics of Don Bosco’s Preventive System, **reason** is the element which binds and regulates the **other two**. Religion, for example has to be ‘reasonable’. So must affection and loving kindness. The basis for this reasonableness for Don Bosco is the belief in the inner strength of the one being educated, guided, and her openness to goodness and truth. This is lived and practiced by means of clear ideas and aims accompanied by flexibility towards circumstances and persons and to help them to act out of conviction and confidence. It is the duty of the educator and animator to create a calm atmosphere to facilitate, spiritual, cultural and intellectual formation.

The educator cannot be insensitive, biased or unfair in her judgement and at all times look for a favourable moment to give corrections for progress and improvement. She has to be always motivated by prudent reason, genuine love and unfathomable faith. If we translate these elements into today’s terms, they can be named as, interpersonal dialogue, initiation into critical evaluation, personal awareness and respect for individual, help to the youth and sisters especially the young ones in understanding their inner resources and for a positive, productive offering of oneself in service to God and to His people.

II.  **THE SALESIAN PREVENTIVE SYSTEM:  RELIGION AND EDUCATIVE-PASTORAL SPIRITUALITY**

Don Bosco assigned primary importance to religion both as a system and in its practice. In today’s more secularized atmosphere, religion is to be understood as the recognition of God as father and the acceptance of a lifestyle in conformity with this conviction. The ideal of holiness presented by Don Bosco is one of youthful holiness, and the attitude one has to possess and be convinced is that life as a place for encounter with God.

In the religious communities, one should be convinced that GOD is the centre of one’s life and He is living in the members of the community, a truth where in one has to find fullness of meaning and happiness in the consecrated life .Salesian Religious life has to be an experience of itinerant CHURCH as communion and service. According to DB our vocation has to be understood as a human and Christian commitment, not a supernatural or fantastic eschatological lifestyle. Our Blessed Mother, known as Mary Help of Christians, who has experienced this life and already lived it admirably as a way to holiness. This is the unified proposal of a Christian lifestyle.

III**. THE SALESIAN PREVENTIVE SYSTEM:  LOVING-KINDNESS: AN EDUCATIVE RELATIONSHIP**

Don Bosco opted for loving-kindness, i.e. a special quality of friendliness on the part of the educator which inspires cooperation and confidence on the part of the one being educated. He based his education on charity: **the pedagogy of the heart.**

The basic traits of his approach are to be found in a letter he wrote to Salesians from Rome in November 1884. He says that ‘education is a matter of the heart and confidence in the educator and familiarity in approach is the fundamental law of this system. A familiar presence among the young and members of the community is an indispensable element in the formation of the sisters and young. For the effective result the educator/ animator has to offer a favourable environment which is a kind of contagion that goes between educator and the educated’. Jesus Christ and Our Blessed Mother are models in this relationship, given by our holy Founders.

The real situation that young people find themselves in today spurs us on to put the Preventive System into action.  Pedagogy of the heart is more than ever needed. For Don Bosco, love translates into assistance: i.e. a lively participation in the world of the young/sisters and a personal interest shown in each one.

Assistance and Animation for Don Bosco is the fruit of love and an educative presence which is a realistic appreciation of the possibilities of personal development. An animator /Educator must enter into actual meeting with the sisters and young, relate to them empathetically, educate to responsibility in daily life and seek always ever new ways of being present. The animator or Assistant uses a method which frees the individual to help her grow by herself.

Family spirit should be the environment between the educator and the educated. A place where happiness and interior calm reign, facilitating teamwork and forming an educative community, reflecting Gospel elements of Freedom, love, Forgiveness and brotherliness.

The **PREVENTIVE SYSTEM** becomes a complete reality by involving persons, building relationships and safeguarding community communion.



**01st - ALL SAINTS DAY**

**02nd - ALL SOULS DAY**

**13th - BLESSED ARTEMIDE ZATTI SDB**

**14th - CHILDREN’S DAY**

**15th - BL. MADALENE MORANO**

**15th - WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

**21st - PRESENTATION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY**

**22nd - CHRIST THE KING**

**25th - MAMMA MARGARET**

**29th - NOVENA TO THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**29th - FIRST SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT**

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF FMA PRESENCE IN INDIA - 1922- 2022*

I am happy to learn that all the communities have taken the study of Diamond Years Vo. I. with great enthusiasm and love, discovering the ardent missionary spirit of our pioneers and other missionary sisters . The Webinar that was planned for deepening the Salesian pedagogy animated by the INC & INK provinces were ably carried out from November 4-7. From each province 12 communities were given the opportunity to participate in it. **The following were the topics and Resource persons:**

**Preventive System of Don Bosco – Sr. Nirmala Mummadi ( INK)**

**Preventive System lived by Mother Mazzarello – Sr. Sahaya Sangita Rani (INK )**

**Salesian Pedagogy lived by Bl. Michael Rua – Sr. Lilly Perumpettikunnel (INC )**

**Salesian Pedagogy lived by Mother Ersilia Canta – Sr. Stella Potteparambil (INC )**

I congratulate each one of them for their original contribution in discovering the nuances of the Salesian pedagogy lived by our saints.

All the materials are sent to the communities for further study and reflection. As part of deepening and living the Salesian Pedagogy and Spirituality we shall begin to study from November, the fruits of Preventive System – Life of Dominic Savio, Francis Besucco and Michael Magone. The soft copy will be sent to you with an Introduction to the study. Another initiative of formation team is to focus more on the qualities of Leadership of our founder Don Bosco and Co-foundress St. Mary Mazzarello, beginning from the month of November until May. On every 13th of the month Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani either directly or with the help of her team will send a short good night in video presentation highlighting Mother Mazzarello and her leadership skill. In the same way on every 30/31 of the month Sr. Nirmala Mummadi will be sending a prepared video on Don Bosco and his leadership skills which can be used for good night. May all these help and study, enable us to deepen our Salesian Spirituality and get closer to the spirit of our origins.

**We shall continue to reflect on the General theme: With Mary through the Course of the Century (1922 - 2022) and beyond....in the second year of preparation 2020-2021**

**THE THEME FOR THE SECOND YEAR - 2020 – 21 IS:**

**Accept the mandate: “I entrust them to you”**

**Reviving the family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion”**

**On 22nd November 2020** let us have a meaningful celebration in our communities involving the entire educating community thus entering in to the 2nd Year of preparation for centenary of FMA presence in India meaningfully. let us take keen interest in studying and assimilating the articles on community life so as to **Revive the family Spirit and strengthen Community Communion” ..**

**FMA PCI ONLINE MEET**

A Zoom meeting was organized by Sr. Margaret Amalanathan , the PCI president on 27th October 2020, with the FMA Provincials, Delegates and Substitutes to the GC XXIV to inform and discuss on the guidelines received from Sr. Cazzuola Chiara, Vicar General and Moderator of GC XXIV. It was in view of the forthcoming GC XXIV on the theme “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2: 5) ‘Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity’ (Rome 2020), and the new challenges posed by Covid-19.

We also discussed about the study of GCXXIV Working Document and the other suggested documents . We also shared about the responsibilities allotted to FMA-PCI for the liturgy during the Chapter days from 21-26 April 2021. A core group is formed, consisting one Sister from each province to prepare the liturgy for a quality and meaningful liturgical celebrations. There was also sharing of PCI – ISS FMA Asia Networking for Institute of Higher Education and discussion on the ongoing triennial preparation for the Centenary celebration of FMA presence in India. The meeting has enlightened and enriched all the participants. We are grateful to Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margret, PCI President for having organized this important meeting. Centenary celebration committees were finalized. Kindly go through the files with regard to the study of these documents as well as the minutes of the PCI Meeting.

**MEETINGS & TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED**

**SOCIAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP**

* Sr. Ancy Mathew participated in a capacity building Webinar organized by KKID Coimbatore on 22nd October 2020. It was intended to capacitate the partners to plan a project with the theory of change, amidst the complexity of changes and assumptions of change and how one can integrate different points while developing a project proposal.
* Two days webinar was organised by NDF coordinator Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi on 20th and 21st October 2020. Sr. Jigi Paul, Sr. Ashalatha Pushparaj, Sr. Ancy Mathew and Ms. Mini Sebastian participated in it from our province. The first day was the Staff orientation to re-imagine the scope of FMA NDF to meet the challenges of Pandemic and the post pandemic times. On the second day, Fr. Joe Xavier’s session focussed on setting up five year plans for FMA NDF and FMA INDIA. The target set is divided into two phases: 2020-2022 and 2022-2025.
* There was another Webinar held on 7th November for Sisters in charge of NCP.

**COMMUNICATION SKILL TRAINING & VIDEO EDITING**

* An Online training programme on Video Editing will be conducted from 16 – 21 November for the novices and 23 – 28 for the sisters in the province (below 50). Further information will be sent by Sr. Monica Thomas and her team .
* Online Course for writing Skills and book review will be conducted from 30 November – 05 December for all the juniors and other sisters who are interested. It will be for two hours daily. Kindly contact Sr. Monica Thomas for further detail.
* There will be a Webinar on 22 November 2020 on the theme “REMEMBERING THE PIONEERS” – ***The*** ***Life of Sr. Consiglia Tarricone.*** Sr. Alice Chacko is the resource person.

**SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS**

My heartfelt appreciation and thanks to our dear Sisters who planned and arranged various meetings and webinars all through the last month with inventiveness and dedication.

* Srs. Sahaya Sangitha Rani, Nirmala Mummadi & Philo Fernandez for the three days of profound animation for the whole Province, on Salesian Pedagogy in preparation for the Centenary Celebration of FMA Presence in India.
* Sr. Rosy Lopez for all the online animation for the sisters in charge of Social Ministry and NCP.
* Srs. Jayanthimary Boyopati, Monica Thomas & Jisha Abraham for the special animation during the missionary month.
* Srs. Monica Thomas & Jisha Abraham for taking initiative in uploading many inspiring videos in the province website and for the courses and Seminars conducted on media education.
* Srs. Alice Chacko & Maria Rajeswari for their wonderful animation and programmes for the Youth from Auxilium Youth Service Centre.
* Sr. Saly Abraham for organizing region wise meeting of the economers and instructing them on financial Policy and budgeting. I also thank her for the online meeting with the provincial council to study the financial policy.
* Sr. Annie Thoppil for animating temporary professed sisters on tri monthly recollection day.

**CONGRATULATIONS, BEST WISHES & PRAYERS**

I am happy to announce that Mother General and her Council has asked Sr. Josmy Jose to join the Faculty of Auxilium, Rome in the Department of Catechetics. She has submitted her Doctoral thesis recently. Once the presentation of the thesis is completed she may be able to begin the process for the travel if the situation of COVID 19 is better. While we congratulate Sr. Josmy, we implore God’s blessings and assure her of our prayers for a fruitful mission at the Centre of the Institute.

**PRAYERS REQUEST FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES**

* For the mother of Sr. Anna Thayil
* For the father and nephew of Sr. Vijaya Gudime
* For the mother of Sr. Theresa Augustine
* For the parents of Sr. Saleth Patrick who fell ill suddenly and admitted in the hospital

**SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS**

* To Sr. Ezareth Rose and the Sisters of INC at the passing away of dear Sr. Matilde Xaxa on 10th October.
* To dear Sr. Lincy George at the loss of her maternal aunt Mrs. Mary Joseph on 21October 2020.
* To dear Sr. Celine Anthony at the demise of her cousin sister Sr. Deepthi (Upavi Sistiers Kerala) on 21 October 2020.
* To Fr. Silveira Savio SDB, and the confreres of Mumbai Province at the demise of

Fr Elias Dias SDB on 30 October 2020.

* To Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam and the confreres of INT Province at the sudden demise of Fr. Louis Kulangara (K.O Louis) 04 November 2020. He is the cousin of Sr. Sherly Puthussery

**May their Souls Rest in Peace!**

**CONCLUSION**

**NOVENA TO THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

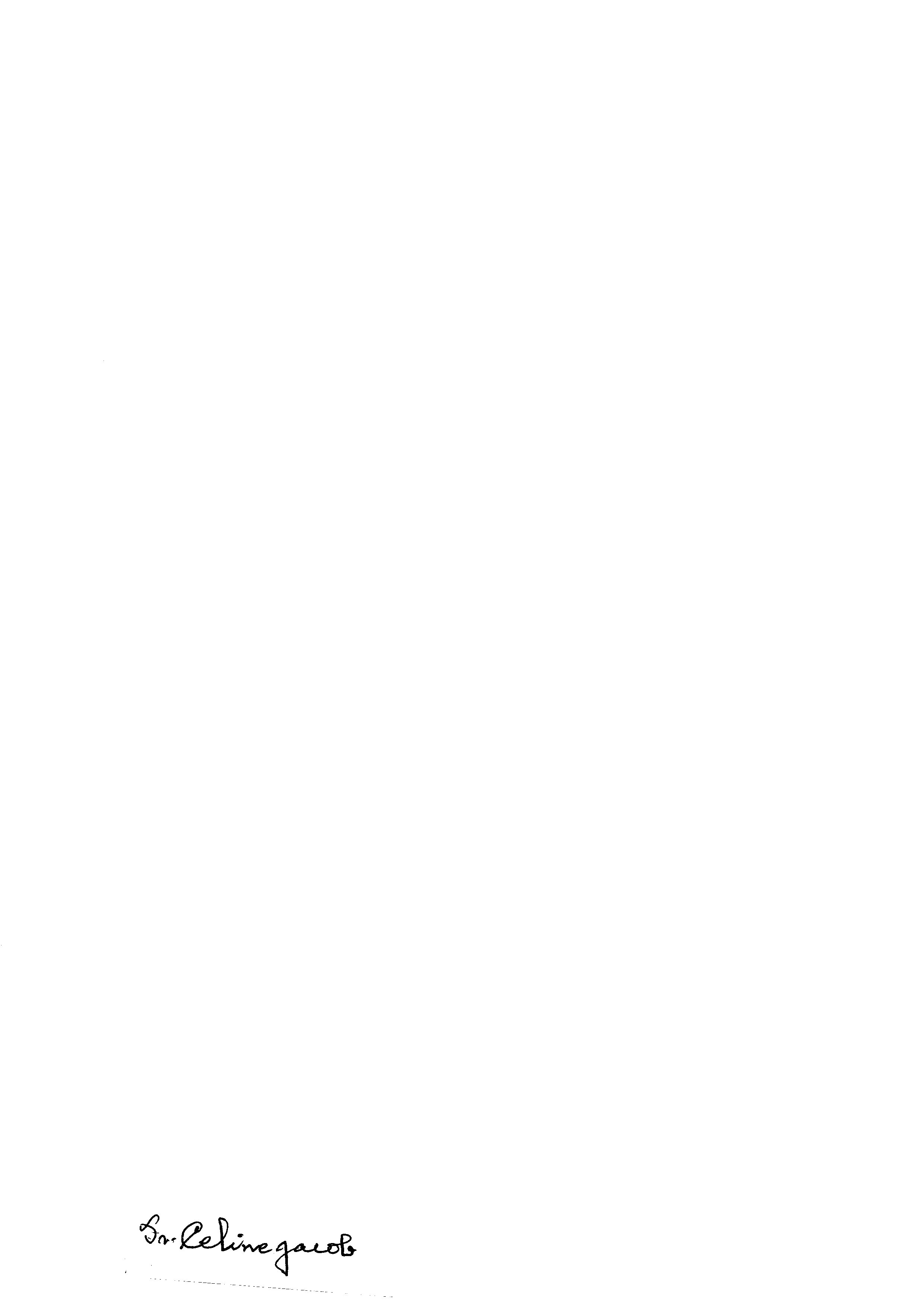
On 29th November we begin the novena in preparation for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the glorious Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it’s important to look at it as a gratuitous gift from two perspectives. First, the “Immaculate Conception” means that when God created the Blessed Virgin Mary, He created her without any trace of sin. This was done through what we call a **prevenient grace**. This grace given her is an act of God’s perfect and gratuitous mercy. She did not earn it or merit it; rather, God in His goodness chose to create her without original sin so as to have a suitable instrument by which the Son could come into the world. Mary, for her part, embraced this gift and chose to remain sinless throughout her life by a continual act of her free will.

Second, in creating our Blessed Mother immaculately, God did not keep her to Himself. He was not selfish with her. Instead, He chose to make this perfection of His creation, **our own mother.** The Immaculate Mother Mary is now our spiritual mother in the order of God’s grace and mercy. This, also, is an act of perfect gratuitous mercy on the part of our loving God. We do not deserve such a spiritual mother and protectress, but we have her and she is always there interceding for us and bestowing many graces from God upon us as a perfect mother would.

Let us seek her motherly care and protection, always especially during this trying times of pandemic.

**A very Happy feast of the Solemnity of Christ the King!**

Affectionately,

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**Sr. Celine Jacob**

**Provincial**