



**Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice**

*Salesiane di Don Bosco*

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK  
Bangalore - India**



**PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR**  
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*My dearest Sisters, affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!*

As we have spent fervently month of June with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, now we enter into the month of July honouring the Precious Blood of Jesus. It is recognition of Jesus' sacrifice and how he spilled his blood for the salvation of humanity. Furthermore, this blood is made present through the gift of the Eucharist and is something we can consume at Mass, along with the body of Christ, under the appearance of bread and wine. Over time the Church developed various feasts of the Precious Blood, but it wasn't until the 19th century when a universal feast was established.

During the First Italian War for Independence in 1849, Pope Pius IX went into exile to Gaeta. He went there with Don Giovanni Merlini, third superior general of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. While the war was still raging, Merlini suggested to Pope Pius IX that he create a universal feast to the Precious Blood to beg God's heavenly aid to end the war and bring peace to Rome. Pius IX subsequently made a statement on June 30, 1849 that he intended to create a feast in honor of the Precious Blood. The war soon ended and he returned to Rome shortly thereafter.

On August 10 he made it official and proclaimed that the 1st Sunday in July will be dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Later, Pope Pius X assigned July 1 as the fixed date of this celebration. After Vatican II the feast was removed from the calendar, but a votive Mass in honor of the Precious Blood was established and can be celebrated in the month of July. For these reasons the entire month of July is traditionally dedicated to the Precious Blood, and Catholics are encouraged to meditate on the profound sacrifice of Jesus and the pouring out of his blood for humanity.

## WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, WE HAVE REDEMPTION

Jesus has purchased you and me by shedding His blood for our sins. He paid our price so that we no longer have to be slaves to sin. God the father accepted the sacrifice of His son Jesus as a substitute for us. We are therefore redeemed and have access to God through the blood of Jesus.

Jesus satisfied the wrath of God that was to come upon all of us, because of our sins. The righteous law of God says that every soul that sins shall die. We are all sinners and therefore our souls are destined to die. But now that Jesus paid our sin debt in full on the cross, we can be free to be the children of God. Jesus bought us out! He satisfied the law and wrath of God.

## BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN

Ephesians 1:7-8 says “So overflowing is his kindness toward us that he took away all our sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved; and he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace - for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times.” We can now receive forgiveness from God for our sins on the basis of what Jesus did for us. God forgives you, not because you just ask him, but on the basis that His son went to the cross and shed his blood for your sins.

When you believe in Jesus Christ and acknowledge him as your saviour and Lord and accept that He died on the cross for your sins, God applies the blood of Jesus on you and reconciles you to Himself. Without the blood of Jesus, there remains no other sacrifice that can reconcile you to God.

When we ask God to forgive us, His forgiveness comes, not because we say “I will do better” but only on the basis of what Jesus did on the cross. No matter how many sins you have committed, even the worst of them, the blood of Jesus is ENOUGH to cleanse, purify and save you. God, the father sent Jesus to suffer, bleed and die so that He can forgive you. Take a moment to just **praise God for His awesome love for you and me.**

## TOWARDS THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION

As we are getting closer to the centenary celebrations, with the theme :

“Journey with Mary in the Course of the Centenary (1922-2022) and Beyond”, with the objective **“Accept the mandate, I entrust them to you: Reviving the Family Spirit and Strengthening Community Communion”**. This month we shall take up for our reflection article No. 50 of our Constitutions.

The home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus was a home which Jesus graced a number of times with His presence. It was also a home He blessed with His greatest miracle. The little home in Bethany did not escape from the trials and tragedies of life. Martha and Mary and Lazarus dealt with normal anxieties. There was sickness, and death, and grief. The presence of Jesus in the home did not exempt them from these things. But there was also a deep faith: “Yes Lord, you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

We notice how different the temperaments. The two sisters in this episode were faithful disciples.

- both had believed that Jesus was the Messiah
- both loved Jesus
- both welcomed Jesus into their home

But Martha was active, stirring, and impulsive - speaking out all she felt. Mary, by way of contrast, was quiet, still, contemplative, and had deep inner feelings. Just so, in our communities today - we must not expect all to be exactly like each other. We must not think that others have not experienced God's grace, just because their ways of doing things do not tally exactly with ours. Family spirit reigns in a community when unconditional acceptance is offered and the uniqueness of each one is recognized.

Jesus felt a close bond with the family living at Bethany. A beautiful friendship existed between Jesus and the two sisters, and their brother Lazarus. Jesus not only visited the family, but He felt free to drop in at any time. The fact that He loved the family is stated three times in just one chapter of the New Testament - [John 11](#), verse 3, 5, and 36.

The article 50 says: “ Let each person therefore, always welcome her sisters with respect, esteem and understanding, in an attitude of open, family – like dialogue of good will and true sisterly friendship. Jesus was attracted to this family because of the family spirit existed between the members and the hospitality they offered to Jesus and his disciples as well as sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His Word.

The Lord wants all of us to imitate Mary in our worship and to imitate Martha in our work - blessed are those who achieve the balance!”

Let us introspect ourselves. Is our community like the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus? Will Jesus find the atmosphere he found in Bethany? The presence of Jesus in our community *will not remove* the realities of life - but His presence *will help us to live nobly through* the crises and challenges that come in our daily life - and to triumph over them!

Dear sisters let us create a family life environment which is an integral part of our Charism and generate lasting relationships in our communities and in the mission.

Mother Mazzarello wrote to a community that was having difficulty integrating and accepting each other, saying: “ Act in such a way that Jesus will willingly stay among you” “A daughter who truly loves Jesus gets along with everyone” .36

## **ST. ALPHONSA – THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN CHRISTIAN SAINT**

**“Truly, truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone: but if it dies, it bears much fruit”  
(John 12: 24 – 26)**

The falling of grain of wheat into the earth and dying is for a noble cause. It is for the abundant cause of increase. Life of St. Alphonsa on earth was a process like falling of grain of wheat into the earth and dying. Those who would meditate to have a glimpse of her saintly and virtuous life will come across a sea of reflections that certainly enrich their Christian existence. The earthly life of St. Alphonsa is a class room of lessons. “The mystery which was hidden for ages and generations, but now made manifest to his saints. The mystery is that Christ, the hope of glory is there in you” (Colossians 1: 27). St. John begins his gospel with a clear indication that ‘The Word was God’. In one of His parables Jesus illustrates that Word of God is a



seed. Now, St. Paul to his letter to Colossians writes that Christ, the hope of glory, is in you. Hence, without any shadow of doubt, it is obviously true that every individual on earth bears a seed of Christ with in him or her. St. Alphonsa's life itself witnesses that she had known very well that a seed of Christ resides in her. It is because of this conviction she let the divine seed of purity get sprouted. When her life was permeated with the power of Holy Spirit, she entered through the narrow gate way offered by Jesus. She was getting tuned literally to the words of John, the Baptist; "Christ alone was growing in her and her self was being reduced."

Each one of us has a seed of Christ in us. Do we let the divine seed in us grow? We have a seed of Christ within us and since we are not committed enough to cater it, the seed dies out, before it gets sprouted. Is not our carelessness? Now is the time to pray through the intercession of St. Alphonsa to be endowed with the grace of catering the seed of divinity that has been infused by the Almighty at the time of our birth. St. Alphonsa certainly can guide each one of us through the narrow and suffering moments of life. No one has succeeded in giving an answer to the perennial question of suffering. But, St. Alphonsa teaches us that God has a right over our lives. God has a reason for allowing something to happen in our lives and finally He has prepared a reward for each one of us. "God works for the good with those who love him" (Rom. 8: 28). The one who knows all the ways of our lives, the one who keeps the keys of all the lockers, the one who has solutions for all the problems has an answer.

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI has expressed it eloquently in his homily at her canonization. He recalled St. Alphonsa's life as one of extreme physical and spiritual suffering. "this exceptional woman was convinced that her cross was the very means of reaching the heavenly banquet prepared for her by the Father. By accepting the invitation to the wedding feast, and by adorning herself with the garment of God's grace through prayer and penance, she conformed her life to Christ's and now delights in the 'rich fare and choice wines' of the heavenly kingdom. Her heroic virtues of patience, fortitude and perseverance in the midst of deep suffering remind us that God always provides the strength we need to overcome every trial.



03	ST. THOMAS
06	MARIA GORETTI
07	BL. MARIA ROMERO
16	OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
22	ST MARY MAGDALENE
25	ST JAMES, THE APOSTLE
26	STS. JOACHIM & ANNA
28	ST. ALPHONSA MUTHATHUPADATHU
31	IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



### **CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES!**

On behalf of all the sisters of INK Bangalore, I congratulate Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, the new Provincial elect of the FMA Province of Kolkata. We wish abundance of God's blessings and accompaniment of Mother Mary in her new mission. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sr. Rose Ezarath, the outgoing provincial of INC, for her collaboration and sisterly love and support. God bless you and your future mission.

### **NEW PRESCENCES**

- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 was an unforgettable day in the life of our province. We have experienced the providence of God through the instrumentality of Mr. & Mrs. Thambi the beloved parents of our dear Sr. Florence Sabrina. The beautiful house that was given to us in Karunagiri, Khammam was blessed and inaugurated by Rt. Rev .Dr. Paul Maipan, Bishop of Khammam. After the Holy Mass and felicitation the three pioneers of the new Centre Sr. Prameela Sundari and Sr. Alice Sebastian (Sr. Vijaya Gudime – yet to join) began their life with lot of joy and enthusiasm. Let us pray that we may be able to do much good through the pastoral and educative mission. The celebration was followed with the COVID 19 protocol.
- ❖ Heeding to the call of Pope Francis to go to the peripheries, we are happy to begin a new presence in Afzalpur Gulbarga Diocese in North Karnataka. 3<sup>rd</sup> July is going to be great day in the annals of the FMA Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A centenary memorial to rekindle the missionary nature of the Institute. Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda has kindly accepted to celebrate the inaugural Mass. We pray that our sisters who are assigned for this new mission – Sr. Agnes Fernandez, Sr. Hrudaya Mary Rani and Sr. Asha Latha may be able to reach out to the poor and marginalized people of the locality through the educative and social ministry.

### **INITIATION OF POSTULANTS**

Our candidates will make their annual retreat from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 at Sacred Heart Home, Karunapuram preached by Fr. Naresh Neelam SDB and on 24<sup>th</sup> July five Aspirants will be initiated into Postulancy. Haseena Kalakolla, Namsila D Sangma, Sharonu Korivi and two from INB Parmar Rinalben Shirilbhai & Janice Maryann De Souza. Congratulations dear postulants! Let us keep all our candidates in initial formation in our prayer.

### **THANK YOU!**

● A Special word of Thanks to dear Sr. Ashalatha Pushparaj and Sr. Venila Dominic for arranging two days of virtual animation for the vocationable girls in Karnataka region. May God grant us good vocations.



## COURSES & WEBINARS

- Sr. Jacintha Vincy will be attending one year Residential Course at Carmel Santidham Institute of Counselling Psychology, Thrissur. It begins from 25 July 2021 – 15 April 2022. We wish her a fruitful, happy and enriching experience.
- All the Indian Provincials and the delegates of General Chapter XXIV had a planning Zoom Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- As the Chapter is coming very close, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July there will be a webinar for all the PCI Chapter members to discuss the urgent and important matters of the forth coming General Chapter.

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✙ Fr. Vijaya Bhaskar Thatireddy SDB and the Salesians of Hyderabad Province at the demise of Fr. Jose Abraham (59) (Maniyangattuthazheon) on 06 June.
- ✙ Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB and the Salesians of Trichy Province at the demise of Fr. Sahayaraj Arulkannu SDB (61) on 04 June 2021 and Fr. James Theophilus SDB (68) on 05 June 2021.
- ✙ Fr. Jose Kuruvachira and the Salesians of Dimapur Province at the demise of Fr. Emmanuel Xalxo SDB on 11 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Victoria Rani at the sudden loss of her aunt Mrs. Fathima .G (57) on 10 June 2021
- ✙ To dear Sr. Theresa Augustine & Sr. Josmy Jose, at the passing away of their maternal uncle Mr. Thomas (79) on 15 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Srs. Anna & Alice Chacko at the loss of their cousin brother Fr. James Kumbukkal, diocese of Mananthavady Wynad on 22 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Jisha Abraham at the demise of her grandfather Mrs. Joseph (96) on 24 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Phiba Kharkongor, second year novice at the loss of her beloved mother Mrs. Lastina Kharkongor (59) on 27 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Annie Joseph at the passing away of her uncle Fr. James Peedikkaprayil (80), diocese of Mananthavady Wynad on 28 June 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Celine Maria Selvam at the loss of her cousin brother Mr. William(62) on 02 July 2021.

## CONCLUSION

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July let us joyfully celebrate the feast of St. Thomas , the patron Saint of India. St. Thomas had his faults but Christ seems to understand this. He didn't forget about Thomas just because Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when he appeared to them earlier behind locked doors or because Thomas doubted him either. On the contrary, Christ purposely sought him out and then greeted him with words of peace. Jesus didn't let him off the hook that easy and he will not allow us to withdraw from him so easily either. The Lord continues to this day, to seek out his own that have wandered away from him.

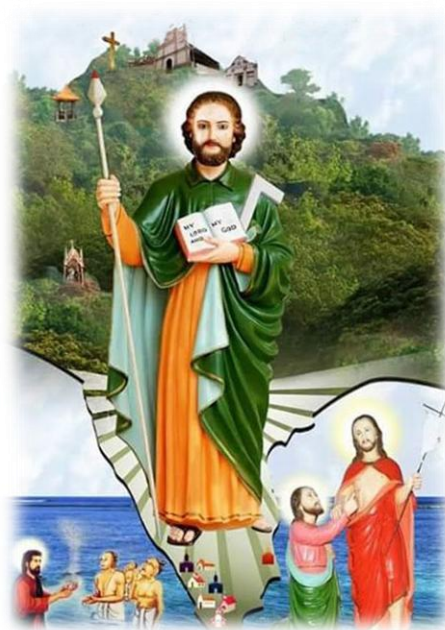
Can you imagine what Thomas' reaction was when he saw the Lord? No doubt he was absolutely astounded at the sheer reality of Jesus standing before him. And you can't help but wonder about the Lord himself. Was he smiling or even laughing? Surely Jesus wasn't serious and somber all the time. The look on Thomas' face would have been priceless! He probably thought he was seeing a ghost until he touched Christ's hands and side. It might be the same with us one day too, when we finally get to meet Jesus in heaven. Will we be shy then? Jesus understands the beauty of our own faith and love for him and that it has been harder because we never knew him in the flesh like Saint Thomas did. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." He spoke of us long before we came into being. Let us ask St. Thomas to intercede for us to have deeper and stronger faith in Jesus and to share the same with everyone. **WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. ALPHONSA!**

**Affectionately,**

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*  
*Provincial*

**Happy Feast**



**ST. THOMAS PRAY FOR US**