



XXX/ 11

01 April 2023

My dearest Sisters,

Wishing each one of you a fervent Holy Week and very JOYFUL EASTER!

This letter welcomes us to the most solemn and sacred week of the Liturgical year. We meet Jesus our Saviour completing the mission entrusted to Him by His Heavenly Father amidst a jubilant crowd shouting ‘Hosannas’, soon to be followed by louder shrieks of “Crucify Him”.

Holy Week:

The Holy Week is here for us to behold, learn and imitate Jesus, the Suffering Servant. Holy Week marks one of the high points of the most important liturgical seasons for Catholics around the world. He made these days of the week **HOLY** by living a life of obedience to His Father’s will and a life of sinlessness despite all trials, suffering and pain. He further sanctified it by giving His life totally for others. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost. Let this week give us divine hope even in this time of great pain and sorrow. So often we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. No hardship, no burden and no cross can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross.

The greatest of all weeks for us Christians is the Holy Week. It is the most significant week of the year for Christian worship. During this week the church remembers the events of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection.



We direct our attention during this week to the Lamb of God, the Suffering Servant, and the Saviour of the world. We trace Jesus’ life through the events of the last days before His death. In doing so, we see again our own sin and failure, but at the same time marvel at the love of Christ for the world. The Holy Week is a time for careful attention, prayer-filled reverence and profound wonder at the love of God shown in Jesus. As we participate in the Holy Week liturgy which is based on centuries-old tradition, let us deepen our devotion to the Cross, and proclaim the words of St. Paul most of all through our lives: —”I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”. (Gal 2:20)

Palm Sunday: We begin the Holy Week with the Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), which commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Acclaimed as King and hailed as a conquering hero by the cheering crowd He seemed to have arrived at the fulfilment of His earthly mission. For Christ, it’s the beginning of the last week of his life, a week of violent contrasts, which



will end in grief and glory. The palms will soon be formed into crosses and the cheers will turn into jeers calling for his death. Throughout the passion our attention is focused on Jesus who appears as a person completely absorbed in prayer, responding quietly and sensitively to each new moment of sorrow.

Maundy Thursday: Holy Thursday commemorates the Lord's last supper with his disciples, when he



gave his commandment of love. On this day, he showed us how to love, how to serve, how to wash one another's feet. Jesus tells us, —Do you understand what I have done to you? Do you understand what it means to serve and to love? I gave you a model of what you should do: Wash each other's feet, and after that, break your bread, sharing it all over the world, all over humanity until I will be with you again in the Kingdom to come. Love is not just an emotion or feeling. Jesus shows that it must be practical and expressed in action.

Dorothy Day, a foremost American social activist-mystic of the 20th century, says — “The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest places, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers and sisters with that burning love, that passion which led to the cross, then we can truly say, Now I have begun”.

On this day, we remember the Exodus event of the Old Testament, the Passover, which is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It was during the Passover meal that Jesus institutes the Eucharist, saying — “Do this in remembrance of me”. And through it Jesus also institutes the Sacrament of the Holy Orders.

Good Friday: Before his triumphant resurrection Jesus has to go through a disgraceful death. In the garden of Gethsemane He is deeply troubled, and He sweats blood as He prays to the Father to remove the chalice of suffering and death from him. Betrayed and taken prisoner he is mocked, blind-folded, beaten and spat upon, while a convicted murderer is set free. He undergoes a final wrench of pain when Peter denies him and the apostles forsake him. His sense of abandonment by God is increased by the desertion of his friends. On Calvary He is crucified between two thieves and dies as a common criminal. Mary alone stands at the foot of the cross faithful to the last.



The death of Jesus is not a tragedy. It is through His death that we receive life, eternal life, life in its fullness. This is what we are going to reflect on Good Friday.

JOYOUS EASTER: Jesus' journey does not end on Good Friday; it is followed by an Easter, a Resurrection. As we will participate in the Easter Vigil and other Easter Masses and services, let us bring to mind our own crosses and sufferings. They too will have a resurrection. Something good will happen from our sufferings and troubles.



The Resurrection appears here, in this moment when things seem dead, when we have reached our human limits, when it feels as though there is no love. Resurrection is not an event in the past but a concrete reality, something we look for every day. It is to be completely poor and to receive God in that space as life.

God will even use our various deaths in our favour, if we will allow it. God's mercy is so infinite and resourceful that God uses even our sins and failures and unfaithfulness for our own redemption. The failures, emptiness, negativity, acts of resistance, sinfulness, weaknesses and fragility that we encounter in our daily lives end up being the very force and motivation that catapults us

ahead. The true meaning of the raising of Jesus is that God will turn all our human *crucifixions* into *resurrection*.

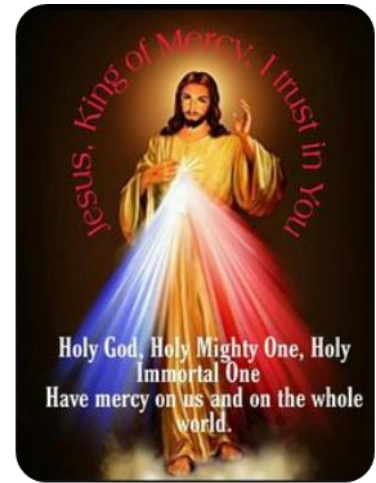
Death is not a loss. Life is not ended, but merely changed. Nothing that we love is ever lost, everything is transformed. Let us die to our ego, our false self, our selfishness. We need to let go of our envy, greed, violence, anger, self-satisfaction. The cross is not the price that Jesus had to pay in order to convince God into loving us. No. It is rather simply where love will lead us. To love is to die. To love or to forgive is to let go, to forego of our own wills and wishes. If we love, if we give ourselves to feel the pain of the world, it will crucify us. Some kind of suffering is always the price and proof of love.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Church celebrates the feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. Divine Mercy is the form that God's eternal love takes when He reaches out to us in the midst of our misery and our brokenness. Whatever the nature of our need might be - sin, guilt, suffering, or death - He is always ready to pour out His merciful, compassionate love into us, to help us.

Our Lord Jesus has given us comforting words of mercy. He wants to lavishly shower mercy and love upon His children. Jesus revealed his message of Mercy to St. Faustina, a simple nun from Poland. He revealed this message to her so that she may pass it on to the world: "Souls that make an appeal to my mercy delight me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. No soul that has called upon my mercy has ever been disappointed. I will show my great compassion."

As we meditate in gratitude for God's gracious mercy shown to us, we should look honestly at the mercy that we show to others. Our God is a God of mercy. Wish you all fervent days of novena to the Divine Mercy and a fruitful celebration of the Feast!



WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE



Let us intensify our prayers for our beloved Mother General as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the World Gratitude Day on 26 April 2023 in Colombia, Bogotá with the Theme "**With Mary we generate a culture of peace.**". World Feast of Gratitude brings an experience of interconnectedness with everyone in the Institute.

The animation of the Feast is enriched by the social profiles animated by the Colombian Provinces: the Facebook page [Grazie.fma](#) and the Instagram profile [grazie.fma](#), in addition to the YouTube Channel [Festa del Grazie](#), where little by little, the Videos will be published and the live streaming will be transmitted.

There will be live streaming at the Web Site <https://www.festadelgrazie.org>. As we wish our dearest Mother Chiara Cazzuola and all her collaborators in the Council a very joyful Feast, we turn our gratitude into prayers together with the young people

and our lay collaborators. Let us be grateful to God for his bountiful blessings showered upon our Institute and each one of us. May our blessed Mother always guide and lead us!



- ❖ Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani attended a Course for the animators of Project Mornese for the sessanio 2022 – 2027 in Rome from 20 February – 12 March 2023.

- ❖ Sr. Gunti Mary Jyoti will attend the II Phase of the II Novitiate at DBRC Bangalore from 15th April to 15th May. We accompany her with our prayers as she intensely prepares herself for her final commitment.
- ❖ The junior sisters are expected to be in the provincial house for the renewal programme on 12th May 2023. The session will begin at 9.30 a.m. This will be followed by the Annual Retreat and renewal of the Vows. They can return by 24th evening.
- ❖ III Batch Annual Retreat for the sisters will begin at 5.30 p.m. on 03 May and conclude with the Mass at 7.00 a.m. on 10th May 2023. Rev. Fr. Biji Thomas SDB from Kolkata province will be the preacher.
- ❖ A Sincere thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and Community for hosting the NDF Annual Meeting from 18 – 22 March at the Provincial House. A special word of thanks to dear Sr. Rosy Lopez and CDEW staff for making all the arrangements for this event.

AUDITING OF SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

Our Prayerful wishes to Sr. Saly Abraham and all the local Economers as they get ready for the annual auditing of accounts. On 18th & 19th April the sisters (Local Economers) of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana will meet at **Navajeevana Uppal** while on the 21st to 23rd Sisters of Kerala will meet for the same at **Auxilium Palluruthy**. For the Economers of Karnataka Houses it will be at the **Provincial House** on 28th & 29th. I would like to express my sincere thanks in anticipation to the three communities of Navajeevana Uppal, Palluruthy and the Provincial House for their hospitality and generous availability.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ❖ For our elderly and sick Sisters.
- ❖ For the nephew of Sr. Rosy Lopez who is under treatment.
- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Mary Yash who is hospitalized.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To dear Sr. Smitha Thomas at the loss of her aunt Mrs. Elsy Johnny (61) on 03 March 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Sushma Korabandi at the loss of her grandmother Mrs. K Mariamma (86) on 05 March 2023.
- ✚ To Fr. Biju Michael SDB, Regional Councillor of South Asia at the loss of his dear mother on 04 March 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Anita Joseph at the passing away of her maternal aunt Mrs. Alikutty Joseph (93) on 12 March 2023.
- ✚ To Provincial and Confreres of INK and our dear Sr. Teresa Thomas (her uncle) at the demise of Rev. Fr. Thomas Vailatt SDB (93) on 13 March 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Lucy Michael at the demise of her aunty Mrs. Rosamma Mathew (68) on 26 March 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Mary Jayanthi Boyopati at the passing away of her maternal uncle Mr. Thomas Reddy on 31 March 2023.

CONCLUSION

Mother General's Circular 1026 for the month of April is a priceless gift from her motherly heart and master mind. It calls for careful reading, deep study, reflection and decisions that will improve every aspect of our religious life: Prayer, Community life and Mission:

- To build peace, to generate a culture of peace
- To use our unique feminine resources to provide answers to the most urgent global problems, above all through **education** without which, Pope Francis underlines, any peace project is inconsistent.

- To be life-giving presence in our community, among the young people, in the families...
- To live generativity in its community dimension, involving all the members of the Educating community, by integrating the resources of each one.
- Together we are responsible for the future of our charism.

I have touched upon only a small portion of the suggestions of our Mother General. Kindly read this circular in its entirety as a community and take decisions that are practical and appropriate for our personal and community life.

We are at the end of the academic year 2022-'23, and we will begin the new one 2023 – '24, in June. All of us are aware of the “**Global Pact on Education**” suggested by Pope Francis to bring about the urgently needed changes in the post-covid period in which we live. As we are starting the annual vacation, take time to read and reflect on proposals made by Pope Francis and to see how we can bring about the changes suggested in our own institutions.

Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Lucy Rose".

Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil
Provincial