



XXXI/ 01

01 June 2023

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù!

Prayerful and affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

By now, I guess, after the spiritual retreats and holidays, those who have been assigned to a new destination or to a new mission in the same place, or are continuing in the same situation with renewed energy, are all settled down well and are busy building the new Community. *I wish you a very happy and grace-filled new academic year 2023-'24!*

Yesterday **31 May 2023**, our Province of the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*, Bangalore completed **30 years** of its life. Let our gratitude to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Mother Mary, the Help of Christians, St. Joseph, our powerful protector, to our Holy Founders- Don Bosco and Mother Maria Mazzarello, to our Superiors, benefactors and our lay collaborators, overflow as rivers of fresh energy and enthusiasm and reach out to greater number of young people to transform them into integrally formed global citizens dear to their families, the Church and to the Society.

As we begin the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us recall to our mind, the inspiring words of **Pope John XXIII**: “Every time I hear anyone speak of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or of the Blessed Sacrament I feel an indescribable joy. It is as if a wave of precious memories, sweet affections and joyful hopes swept over my poor person, making me tremble with happiness and filling my soul with tenderness”.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS – PATRON OF OUR PROVINCE

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus presents us with the opportunity to reflect on the relevance of this venerable symbol in our daily lives. The image of the Sacred Heart is never mentioned as such in Sacred Scripture, but its significance can be found spanning each page from Genesis to Revelation. In 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart became a universal feast. **St. John Paul II**, a great devotee of the Sacred Heart, said, *“This feast reminds us of the mystery of the love of God for the people of all times.”*

In 2023, we celebrate the *Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 16*. Let us take a moment to reflect upon the Sacred Heart through the adapted thoughts of **St. Aquinas**. Human being cannot live without joy; therefore when a person is deprived of true spiritual joys she/he becomes addicted to carnal pleasures. Joy is compared to desire as rest to movement. Rest is full when there is no more movement. Hence joy is full when there remains nothing to be desired. But as long as we are in this world, the movement of desire does not cease in us. However, when once perfect happiness has been attained, nothing will remain to be desired because then there will be full enjoyment of God, wherein we will obtain whatever we had desired even with regard to other goods (Ps102:5). Hence desire will be at rest, not only our desire for God but all our desire, so that the joy of the blessed is full to perfection- indeed, over-full, since they will obtain more than they were capable of desiring (1Cor2:9). Yet, this perfectly full joy is not taken into; on the

contrary, we enter into it, according to *Mt 25: 21* “*Enter into the joy of thy Lord*”. *This joy is the fullness of His heart, the Sacred Heart.*

Let us prepare ourselves daily to enter into this heart of Joy. In the ordinary moments of our lives, the simple as much as the spectacular, and the majestic as well as the everyday, may we be transformed by the knowledge that each moment and events of life are opportunities to transform ourselves to the austere demands of Christ’s love which requires self conquest and self gift. Let us grow in our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Patron of our Province and carry on spreading this devotion through the First Friday practices in our communities.

Let us listen also to what *Pope Francis* tells us: “*Do not be afraid to present to Jesus all the intentions of our suffering humanity, its fears, and its miseries. May this Heart, full of love for humanity, give everyone hope and trust.*” Let us discover the riches that are hidden in the Heart of Jesus.

SINCERE THANKS

- ✦ I thank Sr. Margaret Mathai, Sr. Monica Thomas and Sr. Molly Joseph who have contributed much to the Provincial Council and to the mission of the Province for the past six years. I thank in particular Sr. Saly Abraham the faithful and prudent Economer and Sr. Shiny Karakkat the committed Secretary.
- ✦ My sincere thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and the Provincial House Community for making the necessary arrangements for the Retreats of the Sisters and Postulants, for the Renewal of Vows of the junior sisters and the solemn events of Final Profession of Sr. Mary Jyothi. My Sincere thanks to you dear sisters.
- ✦ I express my gratitude and appreciation to the Provincial of ING, Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal, and to Sr. Lydia Komuhra and her community at Auxilium Guwahati, for accompanying our Junior Sisters with much care and keen interest in their growth for the past one year, during the time of their intensive Juniorate. Thank you Sr. Alphonsa for receiving the Vows of our three sisters on 24th May 2023.

Let's celebrate!

04	MOST HOLY TRINITY
08	BLESSED STEPHEN SANDOR SDB
08	MARIAM THRESIA CHIRAMEL
11	MOST PRECIOUS BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS
16	SACRED HEART OF JESUS
17	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
21	ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
23	ST. JOSEPH CAFASSO
24	NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
29	SOLEMNITY OF Sts. PETER AND PAUL

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate our Communities who accompanied the students of our Schools obtaining excellent results in the High School and Higher Secondary exams. The Principals, Headmistresses and Sisters responsible along with the lay Staff, gave their best to lead our students to success in their academic performances. Let us try to accompany them to be responsible citizens of our country.

WELCOME BACK

We are happy to welcome our three Junior Sisters- Thomasamma Komerla, Supriya Gittala and Medona Jacob who will be back to the Province on 14th June after having completed their intensive juniorate at Guwahati.

CANIDATES IN FORMATION

The Contact Period Candidates will be in our Community at Bannerghatta. Sr. Lucy Michael will be responsible for their formative accompaniment. Sincere thanks to Sr. Lizy C. Devasia and the Community for their openness and availability to accommodate our Candidates and offer them the experience of a Community. The pre-Aspirants continue their Higher Secondary studies as part of Karunapuram Community. The Aspirants and those to be Postulants are few in number, which is a reminder for us of our personal and community responsibility for a more effective vocational animation.

CANONICAL VISITATION

General Councillor Sr. Phyllis Neves, in the name of Mother General has asked to postpone the Canonical Visitation from 2023 to 2025 due to some urgent need of visiting another Province. Therefore our Province will have the Visitation in the second semester of 2025.

PROVINCIALS' COURSE

In the month of July I will be going to Italy for the Provincials' Course at Castelgandolfo. I will leave on 6th July along with Sr. Nirmala Joseph who will attend the two years Salesian Spirituality Course. I will be back to the Province on 27th July.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ✚ For our elderly and sick Sisters and family members.
- ✚ For the complete recovery of Sr. Ancil Joseph (FCC), sister of Sr. Sumi Joseph who is under medication.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To Sr. Elsa Devasia and her dear ones at the loss of her dear brother Mr. Joseph Devasia (58) on 01 May 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Helen Thonippara at the passing away of her dear brother Mr. Mani Thonippara (85) on 06 May 2023. We express our sympathy to Sr. Helen, Sr. Bridget and the family members.
- ✚ To Sr. Florence Leivon and her family at the demise of her beloved Mother Mrs. Lucy Poumai S. K. on 06 May 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Supriya Gittala and family at the passing away of her maternal grandfather Mr. Subbaraidu (65) on 25 May 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Ritsel D'Almeida at the demise of her maternal uncle Mr. Antony Livera (79) on 01 May 2023.

CONCLUSION

The Sacred Heart of Jesus ushers us into the 31st year in the life of our Province. It's time to ask ourselves: *Is our Province vibrant with the flame of love for Jesus and with the zeal for the "holistic education" of our vibrant millennial youth?* As we enter into the new academic year, it is useful to reflect on what the Church expects from us. Our charism urges us to: "Evangelization through Education"- integral human education. The concept of integral education does not focus only on the knowledge, in other words only on the growth of intellect. It involves the combination of six elements of human growth: Physiology, Psychology, Rationality, Emotion, Intellect and Spirituality. Thus human maturity is reached where one learns to live for oneself, others and for God. Pope Francis puts it in a nutshell, that is, 'education should focus on the growth of *head, heart and hand*'; that is to say, an education that integrates and harmonizes intellect, affections and activity." Therefore, we should not be satisfied with only academic excellence and good results but also the integral formation of the person.

Msgr. S. Jayanathan the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Bangalore in his article on 'Catholic Church and Mission of Education' explains the nature of the Catholic education and the demands of the Church from the Canon Law point of view. He delineates the five specific duties of Catholic education, under the title "*Five Essential Marks of Catholic schools.*"

1. *Parents are the first educators of their children.* It is good to remind them of this duty.
2. *The Church is bound as a mother to give to these children of hers an education by which their whole life can be imbued with the spirit of Christ.*
3. *Animated by Communion and Community,* emphasizing on the community aspect of the Catholic schools. The Catholic school is an educational community of persons, even more to the point, a 'genuine community of faith'.
4. *Imbued with a Catholic World view.* Catholicism should permeate not just the class period of catechism or religious education, or the school's pastoral activities, but the entire curriculum. The Vatican documents speak of an integral education, which responds to all the needs of the human person.
5. *Sustained by the Witness of Teaching*
The primary responsibility in ensuring a school's Catholic identity and for creating a unique Christian school climate lies with the teachers. Theirs is a calling and not simply the exercise of a profession. Educators at every level in the Church are expected to be models for their students by bearing transparent witness to the Gospel.

My dear Sisters, Let us be happy and feel privileged for having been called by the Lord to fulfill such a noble mission in the Church. Therefore, let us put our whole heart and soul into our calling as educators. A construction engineer works with bricks and mortar; an accountant with numbers; a doctor and nurse have to deal with patients. Instead, we educators have before us the cream of human society, the tender buds which we have to help bloom into beautiful flowers.... Ours is a happy, joyful and noble vocation!

Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.

Affectionately,



Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil
Provincial