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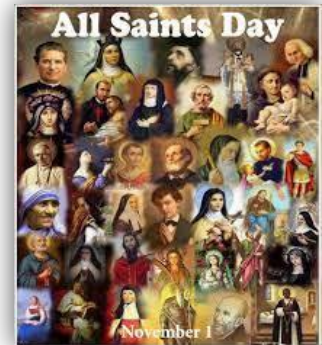
**01 November 2023**

**My dearest Sisters,  
Prayerful and affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!**

In this post-synodal period, we are waiting to know the outcome of the synodal assembly that was held in Rome from 4-29 October 2023. Participants consisting of Bishops, priests, religious and lay people, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in the company of Mary, Mother of the Church and with our great leader Pope Francis, prayed, studied, reflected, dialogued and discussed together on many burning issues relevant to the Church of this post- COVID, war-torn world. We await for the decisions the Synod has arrived at and people of God and those of good will may continue the journey of life on the path of communion and solidarity.

**THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

November commences with the observance of both *All Saints Day* and *All Souls Day*. The former prompts us to reflect on our celestial companions, while the latter directs our thoughts to those in Purgatory. Feast of All Saints, marks a time when we celebrate the vast Communion of Saints. It is a day dedicated to remembering and honoring the saints, both the canonized and non-canonized holy figures. Pope Gregory III established this day as a special occasion for venerating the saints. The celebration of All Saints' Day also highlights the universal call to holiness. It reminds the Catholics that everyone is



called to be saints, to live lives of faith, love, and service to others (LG 40). The saints are seen as role models and intercessors, showcasing the possibilities of a life lived in profound union with God. It's a day to reflect on the lives of the saints and to seek inspiration from their examples of faith and virtue. All Saints' Day focuses on the canonized saints, while All Souls' Day follows on November 2nd, which is dedicated to praying for all the faithful departed, especially those in purgatory, who are believed to be on their way to heaven. This day is a time to remember and pray for the souls of the departed and to offer hope for their eventual entrance into God's presence. In the life of Don Bosco, we read the miraculous escape of a young lad Charles from hell to heaven after making a good confession. Charles, a 15-year-old boy who frequented Don Bosco's oratory of Saint Francis de Sales, all of a sudden fell critically ill. Living on the upper floor of his father's small restaurant, Charles teetered on the brink of death. When the doctor declared his condition critical, the parents were urged to seek confession for their son, who fervently wished to see Don Bosco, his regular confessor. However, Don Bosco was out of town, and the assistant pastor arrived instead. Sadly, the boy passed away, persistently longing for Don Bosco. Upon Don Bosco's return, he was informed of the boy's repeated requests to see him before his passing. Despite being told the

boy had died twelve hours earlier, Don Bosco maintained he was not dead but merely sleeping. He entered the wake room, where the boy lay prepared for burial. With a prayer, Don Bosco called upon Charles, who miraculously awakened, relating a terrifying dream and a concealed sin from his last confession. With Don Bosco's guidance, the boy confessed, seeking absolution. During the episode, Charles intermittently conversed, demonstrating lucidity despite his cold body. In a poignant moment, Don Bosco presented the choice between staying or going to Heaven, to which Charles chose the latter, peacefully passing away.

This incident is also an invitation for us to contemplate both our life and mortality. St. John Bosco's zeal for the salvation of souls led him to raise the dead boy and hear his confession. While we may not be able to perform such miracles, we can certainly pray for the souls entrusted to us as well as those souls in purgatory. Let us be generous with our prayer, mortifications, offering our work, and above all, by offering the fruits of the Holy Mass for the souls in Purgatory. This collective effort will assist them in making amends for their faults and thus find their way to heaven. Eventually, each of us will depart from this world. Throughout history, sages have urged us to view death as a continuation of our eternal journey, encouraging us not to dread or dismiss it. As our love for God deepens, the fear of death vanishes. Stronger faith in God diminishes the sting of death, while unwavering hope in God alleviates the pain. Moreover, let us remember that the observance of "All Souls Day" in November is a period where the Church provides opportunities to obtain indulgences and make amends for our sins.

### **ST. ARTEMIDE ZATTI SDB**

In recognition of his exemplary life and service, St. Artemide Zatti was canonized by Pope Francis on October 15, 2022. His canonization was a testament to his remarkable devotion to serving the less fortunate and his embodiment of Christian Virtues. St. Artemide Zatti loved his sick in a very touching way. He saw Jesus himself in them, so much so that when he asked the sisters for a dress for a new boy who had just arrived, he would say: "Sister, do you have a dress for a 12-year-old Jesus?" His care for the sick was done with great care that it had its own delicate nuances. Some people remember seeing him carrying the body of a patient who had died during the night on his shoulders towards the mortuary, to remove it from the sight of the other patients: and he did this while reciting the *De profundis*. Faithful to the Salesian Spirit and to the motto bequeathed by Don Bosco to his sons – "work and temperance" – he carried out a prodigious activity with habitual readiness of spirit, with a heroic spirit of sacrifice, with absolute detachment from any personal satisfaction, without ever taking holidays or rest. It's said that the only five days of the rest he had were spent... in prison! Yes, he had also known the prison, because of the escape of a prisoner in hospital, for which the blame was on him. He was absolved and his return home was a triumph. He achieved holiness through a daily exercise of charity. Let us follow him in perseverance of our daily exercise of charity also invoke his intercession for all the sick and suffering especially our sisters and the dear ones of our sisters.

### **BL. MAGDALENE MORANO**

Every 15th of November, we honor Blessed Magdalene Morano, who was a 'teacher' par excellence. She embodied intelligence, abundant love, goodness, lively spirit, and profound wisdom. Born at Chieri, Turin, on 15 November 1847, Magdalene Catherine Morano began from her youth a teaching career among local children, which was to last for the rest of her life, especially after obtaining her teacher's qualification. In 1879 with a wealth of educational and catechetical experience, she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, and asked from God "to remain alive until she had attained sanctity". In 1881 she was sent to Sicily, and there she began a flourishing work of education among the girls and young

women of the poor and working classes. With "one eye on earth but ten constantly on heaven", she opened schools, oratories, hostels and workshops in every part of the island. Looking at the sea she would say: "Do you see how vast, how immense the sea is? God's bounty is greater by far!" And with a simple but incisive example she would illustrate the way to holiness: "You climb the high mountain of perfection with constant mortification. Even the tallest houses are made of small stones, piled one upon the other". Her exhortations enlighten, comfort and encourage: "Think as Jesus would have thought. Pray as Jesus would have prayed. Act as Jesus would have acted". This is what Mother Magdalene used to say and this is how she lived, repeating to herself: "Ask for the grace to bear your cross peacefully every day." She is revered and her remains are honored at the Chapel of the Salesian Sisters in Ali Terme, located in Messina. May she continue to inspire and help us in our mission of spreading the Good news to all who are around us!

### **MAMMA MARGARET- SERVANT OF GOD**

November 25th is the day we honor Venerable Margaret Occhiena, who was the beloved mother of Don Bosco. When in 1846, John became seriously ill, Margaret moved to Turin to care for him. John asked her to stay to help with the work for the poor and abandoned boys that were entering the city. Margaret would work in the oratory for 10 years, serving all the boys that were there. She became known affectionately as "Mamma Margaret". She was the very first Salesian Cooperator. She is known to have started the *Salesian "Goodnight"*, a short reflection that she would give the young boys before they went to sleep. And her way of teaching and living is what inspired the Preventive System. As we look to this extraordinary Christian woman, we ask ourselves, 'Would John Bosco have been Don Bosco, the father and educator of countless young people, without her teaching, example, inspiration, and support? In fact, March 2020, Pope Francis reminded the Salesians in his message to the GC28 by asking, "Could your establishments have existed without this faithful woman?" This is why the Church wishes to offer her as an example to all mothers- not because she was the mother of a saint, but because she herself was a saintly Christian mother. Let us pray to her earnestly and desire that she will be raised soon to the altars like our Father and Founder Don Bosco.



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| <b>01<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>- ALL SAINTS DAY</b>                                 |
| <b>02<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>- ALL SOULS DAY</b>                                  |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- ST ARTEMIDE ZATTI SDB</b>                          |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- CHILDREN'S DAY</b>                                 |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- BL. MADALENE MORANO</b>                            |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- SIXTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR</b>                    |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>- PRESENTATION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY</b>            |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>- ARRIVAL OF THE PIONEER MISSIONARIES</b>            |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- MAMMA MARGARET</b>                                 |
| <b>26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- CHRIST THE KING</b>                                |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>- BEGINS THE NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b> |



## **APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE**

- Our six Postulants of INB and INK are making their Apostolic and Community experience from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November.
  - Anusha Renikuntla and Avita Pilla to Uppal
  - Cecilia Basumatary and Helen Francis to Guntur
  - DashishaNongrum and Shweta D'Souza to Auxilium Secunderabad.

Our good wishes and prayers will accompany these young people as we thank the Animators and Communities that will welcome them and accompany them with their Salesian educative PRESENCE.

## **COURSES AND MEETINGS**

- Sr. Sherly Joseph and Sr. Sangitha Rani are attending a meeting of Provincial Delegates for the Salesian Family SDB from South Asia and FMA Provincial Delegates from PCI Conference with a representative of other Groups of the Salesian Family at Dimapur – Nagaland, from 01- 04November 2023. The Meeting is organized by the Salesian Family Sector from the Centre. General Councillor for the Salesian Family and World Delegates of various groups will be present for the occasion.
- Sr. Ritsel D'Almeida will be one of the resource persons for the upcoming “Formation workshop” meeting organized for all SDB provinces. The workshop titled “Formation of Formators, For Rectors and Formators of Aspirantate” is scheduled to take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Don Bosco Provincial House, Calcutta.
- Sr. Sini Varghese will partake in the Intense Course for Women Religious Financial Administrators organised by Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) at Shanti Sadan, Benaulim – Goa from 06 – 11 November 2023.
- Sr. Annie John, Sr. Seena Joseph, Sr. Jincy Peter and Sr. Devamani Gummadi will participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Education organized by Don Bosco Institute (DBI) Guwahati for School Principals and Administrators from 21 – 23 November 2023. The Conference with the theme: “Reshaping School Leadership in an era of emerging technologies and policy changes” will take place in DBI Guwahati.
- This year the Annual NDF Meet will take place at Wadala, Mumbai from 28-30 November. Sr. Rosy Lopez, Sr. Ancy Mathew and Sr. Venila Dominikki are the participants from our Province.

## **FIRST PHASE OF SECOND NOVITIATE**

Sr. Bulla Sumathi and Sr. Francis Nisha will be participating in the first phase of second novitiate, which will be held at Holy Child Auxilium, Vasant Vihar, at New Delhi along with the other Provinces of INM, INT and INC from 15 November to 15 December 2023. We wish them a meaningful spiritual journey in preparation for their final commitment to the Lord.

## **REGIONAL YOUTH MEET**

The Regional Youth Meet of the Karnataka Region will take place at Nirmal Jyothi Bannerghatta on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. We wish all the best to Sr. Maria Rajeswari, Sr. Mary Rani and the organizing team and a fruitful experience to our young people.

## A FOND MEMORY

27<sup>TH</sup> November marks the first anniversary of the GOING HOME of our dear Sr. Crescentia D'Almeida. We remember her fondly and with gratitude. At the request of her family members, we shall have the Anniversary Mass and prayers offered on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m. I invite the Sisters from the neighbouring communities in Bangalore and all those who can to join us and we shall offer our generous prayers for the soul of our dear departed and seek her intercession for the Province and for her family.

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To Sr. Bincy Thomas at the demise of her paternal aunt Mrs. Mary Appachan (65) on 06 October 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Saritha Josephat the passing away of her uncle Mr. Gerald R (74) on 08 October 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Mary V.J at the loss of her brother Mr. Chacko Valliaparambil (69) on 12 October 2023.
- ✚ To Srs. Mary and Molly Joseph at the demise of their maternal aunt Mrs. Alekutty (94) on 21 October 2023.
- ✚ To Mrs. Kavitha John (our orphan) who lost her mother- in -law Mrs. Mariamma Aashirvadam (75) on 30 October 2023.

## WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR SICK: SISTERS AND DEAR ONES

- For the mother of our dear Sr. Bridget Kabilai who is sick and is in critical condition.
- For the mother of our dear Sr. Sini Varghese who is sick and need of our prayers.

## CONCLUSION

An outstanding event that took place in Bangalore was the Jesus Youth National Convention- *JAAGO* held at Christ University campus from 4 -9 October 2023. Over 17000 enthusiastic Jesus Youth from all parts of India, participated in it. Our Sisters, who accompanied our young people, reported that the entire celebration was motivated, meticulously planned, and magnificently implemented by the Jesus Youth themselves. It had all the characteristics of the Lisbon Youth Meet.

What were the factors that enthused and moved such a large number of young people to make so many sacrifices?... It was **the fruit of Catechesis and God Experience**. This should make us reflect seriously. Do we give enough importance to Catechesis and God Experience in our schools, colleges and non-formal Centres of education? Do the Catechesis and God-experience imparted at our Centres, evoke enthusiasm and motivate our young people to become real apostles among their peers? It is important that we give priority to these two factors in our educative mission. I kindly request you to read and reflect Pages 274-278 of Don Carlo Colli SDB's invaluable book "PACT OF OUR COVENANT WITH GOD" a copy of which we have in our hands. This prayerful, reflective reading should motivate every Community to decide upon suitable initiatives.

**Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.**

**Affectionately,**



Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil  
Provincial