



JNM FMA / Pro. Cir. 13

July 2018

Viva Gesu'!

My Dearest Sisters,

Warm and affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn.20:29)

I Wish you all a very happy feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle! On July 3 we celebrate the solemnity of this great apostle of our Motherland India, the patron saint of our Province, Salesian Chennai Province, and of the Archdiocese of Madras, Mylapore.

According to Syrian Christian tradition, Saint Thomas was allegedly killed by piercing a lance, at St. Thomas Mount, in Chennai, in 72 A.D. and his body was interred in Mylapore. The Santhome Basilica, Mylapore, Chennai, presently located at the tomb, was first built in the 16th century by the Portuguese and rebuilt in the 19th century. St. Thomas Mount has been a revered site for Hindus, Muslims and Christians since the 16th century. We are indeed privileged to be in this holy soil that has the living memory of this ardent apostle.

May St. Thomas, the first missionary of Christ to our Indian land and a courageous martyr and witness, intercede for us that we become more and more authentic missionaries of hope and joy to our young people today!

'Holiness in daily living'

We often think that holiness is to withdraw from ordinary affairs and spend much time in prayer but Pope Francis in "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" says that it is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. As consecrated persons we have to be holy by living out our commitment with joy, and work for the common good, renouncing all personal gain (Cf. GE 14). Dear Sisters, let joy characterise all our activities and let it be made visible for our young people. Our Founders served the Lord in gladness (100:2). If there is one undeniable fact about human nature, it is that we all want to be happy. We crave for joy, infinite, endless joy. That joy will be ours if we learn to seek the face of the Lord in the poor and the marginalised of our society.

We need to turn to God in every situation without letting ourselves be dismayed, for holiness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life (cf. Gal 5:22-23). We have all the means available in the Church, such as Sacraments, holy places, loving communities, the witness of the saints and a multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God's love, to help us in our journey of holiness without being overcome by our weaknesses (Cf. C.46). Pope Francis invites us to take small steps to holiness, that is, to stop talking badly about anyone, to have recourse to Rosary in times

of anxiety and to utter a kind word to the one in need(Cf.GE16). My dear Sisters, don't we have ample chances to do this in our community and in our apostolic field? *"In order that we may share his holiness"* (Heb.12:10), the Lord will place before us challenges that threaten us. With God's grace and sustained by His unconditional love we can let the power of Christ work in and through us in spite of our human limitations (Cf.GE 17) as we respond adequately to the challenges of our times.

Pope reminds us that we as Christians cannot think of our mission on earth without seeing it as a path to holiness. *This is the will of God, your sanctification*" (1 Thess. 4:3). So, we need to reveal some aspect of the Gospel by our life (Cf.GE 19). "Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us" (CCC 521) and that is holiness. Pope Benedict XVI, in his Catechesison April 13, 2011, said, *"holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full"*. Pope Francis urges us to contemplate the totality of the life of Saints, their entire journey of growth in holiness and find the reflection of Jesus Christ in it. We too need to see the entirety of our life as a mission and try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives us every moment of our life. The Pontiff invites us to let ourselves be transformed and renewed by the Spirit. Let us then resolve dear Sisters to let God bring to fulfillment our mission and abandon ourselves to the Supernatural grace that purifies and enlightens us (Cf.21-24).

Holiness through our activities:

As Pope Francis exhorts, we can grow in holiness when we commit ourselves willingly, making a total gift of our self for the building up of God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice. Seeking God's Kingdom must be our priority (Cf.Mt.6:33) and we must do it with the spirit of sacrifice. St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello says, *"take courage, work willingly for Jesus and be certain that whatever you do and suffer will be repaid in Heaven"* (L.16). It is interesting to note that we cannot attain peace while avoiding interaction with others, fleeing from activity. Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world as part of our path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives in action and to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our mission. Let us remember that *"life does not have a mission, but is a mission"* (Cf.GE 25-27).

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

03	-	St. Thomas the Apostle
06	-	St. Maria Goretti
07	-	Blessed Maria Romero Meneses
16	-	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
28	-	St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu
26	-	Ss. Anne and Joachim
31	-	St. Ignatius of Loyola

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NEW COMMUNITIES! NEW MISSION!

Inauguration of the two new communities at Pethanaickanpalayam, Salem, on 8 June and at Mosavadi on 12 June were indeed joyful moments to experience the family spirit and a sense of belonging. We could bear witness to the greatness of divine providence, simplicity of the beginnings and courage to launch into the periphery. I place on record my sincere thanks to the

Bishops of Salem and Vellore, Rev. Dr. Singaroyan and Rev. Dr. Soundararaju SDB, for their amiable presence, brotherly support, and paternal blessings on the new mission. My sincere thanks to the animators and the Sisters of all the neighbouring communities for your gracious presence on the days of inauguration which itself was a very big witness of communion, sisterly support, collaboration, and continuous accompaniment. We wish the animators, Sr. Kanikkairaj Shanthi Selvi and Sr. Gaspar Celine, and the Sisters of the new communities, a fruitful mission. May God and our blessed Mother lead you dear Sisters!

HEARTFELT THANKS!

Millions of thanks to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the Provincial Team and Councillors' Meet on 16 June, YP/SC/Mission ad gentes coordinators' and Headmistress' meet on 23-24 June 2018, and New Economers' Meet on 30 June to 1 July 2018. May God bless your availability and hospitality which made our Sisters feel at home and participate actively in the meetings organized. Congrats and thanks to the General Coordinator, the Provincial Coordinators for Youth Pastoral, Social Communication, and Mission ad/inter gentes, Academic Coordinator, NLP Practitioners of our Province, and the Provincial Economist, for their meticulous planning and creative animation.

I extend my thanks to Sr. Devadoss Margaret and the community of Chetpet for hosting the seminar on Media Education for the students of Chennai Schools on 22 June 2018.

WELCOME HOME

Our dear Sr. Aruldoss Angelina, the new missionary, has come down to our Province for the verification of her certificates after which she will be flying to 'Ethiopia' where the Lord and the poor await her. We welcome her warmly and accompany her with special prayers these days as she goes around completing her work.

BUON VIAGGIO !

Sr. Adaikalasamy Jecintha Jeyarani and Sr. Savariappan Irene Novila Rani will be leaving for Rome, on 18 July 2018. Sr. Irene will do the Salesian Spirituality course and Sr. Jecintha will render her service as a nurse in Casa Ersilia Canta. We wish them safe journey and fruitful experience in the Centre.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Sr. Augustine Sagaya Rani and Sr. Shakayanathan Ushananthini will be going to Guwahati for their intense juniorate in the first week of August. The course is from 13 August 2018 to May 2019.
- Sr. Sebastian Elizabeth will be participating in the Spirituality course at Dyana Sadhana, Mysore from 20 July 2018 to March 2019.
- Sr. Lourdusamy Ugini Fatima, Sr. Mariadoss Amala Mary, Sr. Anthony Agnes, Sr. Ambrose Arockia Jeyaceli, and Sr. Soosai Josephine Rani will be participating in the Seminar for Religious Superiors and Counselling skills for Animators at NBCLC, Bangaluru, from 28 July to 13 August 2018.
- Sr. Kanikkairaj Shermila is participating in 'Misean Cara' Meet organized by Sr. Alphonse Isabella, the NDF coordinator, at Wellington on 01- 03 July 2018.

- Sr. Kunnathu Anna, Sr. Samuel Gloria Navaneetham, Sr. Francis Amala and Sr. Michael Theresa Rani will participate in the 'Project Mornese' from 01-27 September 2018.
- Sr. Gaspar Celine and Sr. Irudayaraj Lourdu Mary will be attending the one-month missionary course cum Holy Land tour held at Shillong in the month of September. Sr. Irudayanathan Agatha and Sr. Selvam Maria will be joining the group for the Holy Land trip.

We wish all of them an enriching experience of God and the Salesian Spirit!

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES!

- To Rev. Fr. Jose Kuruvachira SDB who is appointed by the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, as the new Provincial of Dimapur. May God and our Blessed Mother Mary, accompany him as he shoulders the responsibility of guiding the Province!
- To our Salesians of the Province of Chennai who celebrate the Diamond and Golden jubilee of their religious profession and ordination on 3 July 2018. Thank you dear fathers and brother for your loving service to the young and to us your sisters with your spiritual animation and sacramental help. We gratefully remember and pray for you on this day, that God may bless you with good health and strength to continue His mission of love.
- To our 11 Aspirants Ancy, Abisha, Delfi, Jasmine, Mary, Preethi, Priyadharshini, Rebecca, Steffina, Sancu and Chitra who will be receiving the Postulants' medal on 24 July 2018 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. We congratulate you dear young people, for your courageous and decisive choice to follow Jesus more closely, and pray for your holy perseverance.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

- To Rev. Fr. K.M. Jose, the Provincial and confreres of the Chennai Province at the death of Fr. Joseph Vettom (92) on 6 June 2018.
- To Sr. Rayappan Maria Lourdes who lost her Sister-in-law Mrs. Mary Ratnamala (61) on 29 June 2018 in a road accident.
- To Rev. Sr. Isabella Suja and the Sisters of Shillong Province at the demise of Sr. Liliana Marak (93) on 30 June 2018.
- To Sr. P. Mary Saroja who lost her sister-in-law, Mrs. Lilly Mary (72) on 1 July 2018.

PRAYER REQUEST

Let us pray intensely, through the powerful intercession of Blessed Sr. Maria Romero Meneses, for our sisters who are afflicted physically and for the many dear ones of our sisters who are sick and have recourse to our prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS - JULY 2018

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| 01 - 15 | - | Ashram Experience for Postulants, Mannivakkam |
| 05 | - | Child Care Institutions for Marialaya Coordinators, Salem |
| 06 | - | Media Education for Students, Auxilium Home |

- 07 - Past Pupil' Meet, Polur
- 07 - 08 - NLP for Sisters of Vellore Region, Auxilium College, Katpadi
- 14 - 15 - NLP for Sisters of Chennai Region, Kodambakkam
- 22 - VIDES Meet, Pallikonda
- 21- 23 - Retreat for the Candidates, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 24 - Medal receiving Ceremony for the postulants, Sacred Heart Home
- Women Group animation for Chennai Zone, Kodambakkam
- 28 - Catechetical Animation for Sisters teaching Catechism, Auxilium College

Pope Francis very strongly affirms that anything done out of anxiety, pride or the need to impress others will not lead us to holiness. So, dear Sisters let us ask ourselves, 'Do I slog all day long only for my glory, to be appreciated by others?' Let us purify our intentions and enter ever more deeply in dialogue with God as we carry out our daily work.

Pope is very plain in reminding us of the perils we face today with regard to the use of Smartphone: *"The same distractions that are omnipresent in today's world also make us tend to absolutize our free time, so that we can give ourselves over completely to the devices that provide us with entertainment or ephemeral pleasures"* (GE 30). Thus, we come to feel bitter about our mission, our assistance among the young, our commitment grows slack, and our generous and ready spirit of service begins to flag. Can we then say that we are ardent and enthusiastic in our service for God's kingdom? Let the words of our Pontiff eco always in our minds and hearts that we may nurture a spirit of holiness which is capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and mission, so that every moment of our life can be an expression of self-sacrificing love for the Lord.

Let not fear engulf us but set our sights higher, to let ourselves be loved and liberated by God, for *holiness can make us more human as it is the outcome of the encounter between our weakness and the power of God's grace.*

May God, Most Holy, lead us gently onward in the arduous path of holiness so that in all that we are and in all that we do, we may radiate the splendour of the Radiant Lord!

Happy Feast



Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

Sr. NirmalaLazarFMA
Provincial

ITINERARY OF THE PROVINCIAL



JULY 2018

- 03 - Auxilium Home, Katpadi - PV
- 04 - Arni - PV
- 05 - Anmarudai - Motchavadi- PV
- 06 - Auxilium College, Katpadi - PV
- 07 - Past Pupils' Meet, Polur
- 08 - Provincial Office
- 09 - 14 - Philippines - PV
- 15 - Provincial office
- 16 - 17 - Provincial Council
- 18 - Provincial Office
- 19 - Pallikonda - PV
- 20 - Mary Immaculate Convent, TPT - PV
- 21-23 - Candidates' Retreat - Sacred Heart Home
- 24 - Sacred Heart Home - PV
- 25 - Yercaud - PV
- 26 - Erode - PV
- 27 - Pethanaickanpalayam, Salem - PV
- 28 - Mazzarello Home - Yellagiri - PV
- 29 - Jawadhi Hills - PV
- 30 - Polur - Michaelpuram - PV
- 31 - Provincial Office

