



JNM FMA / Pro. Cir. 20

February 2019

Viva Gesù!

My dearest Sisters,

“Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2: 28)

We begin the new month of February with the celebration of the 23rd World Day of Consecrated Life on the 2nd. Forty days after Christmas, we celebrate the Lord who enters the Temple to encounter his people. In the Eastern countries, this feast is called the “Feast of Encounter”: it is the encounter between **God** who became a child to bring newness to our world and expectant **humanity** represented by the elderly man and the woman. In the Temple, there is also an encounter between two couples: the young Mary and Joseph, and the elderly Simeon and Anna. The old receive from the young, while the young draw from the old. This event fulfils the prophecy of Joel: *“Your old men shall dream dreams and your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28)*. In this encounter, the young see their mission and the elderly realize their dreams. In religious life, if the young are called to open new doors, the elderly have the keys. An institute remains youthful by going back to its roots, by listening to its older members. All these are possible because at the centre of the encounter, there is Jesus. Consecrated life is born and reborn of an encounter with Jesus as he is: poor, chaste and obedient. We are called to believe that the Sisters of our community are given to us by God, and they are a part of our history, gifts to be cherished. If we encounter Jesus and our brothers and sisters in the everyday events of our life, our hearts will no longer be set on the past or the future but will experience the “today of God” in peace with everyone. May the Lord give light to our eyes and strength to our steps to walk together toward Him with the road map of holiness as designed by our Holy Father: ***Holiness is Joy and a Sense of Humour, Boldness and Passion.***

Pope Francis says that the saints are joyful and full of good humour. They radiate a positive and hopeful spirit. The Christian life is ‘joy in the Holy Spirit’ if we allow the Lord to draw us out of our masks and change our lives. Jesus assures us: ‘You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy’. Christian joy is accompanied by a sense of humour. We see this clearly in St. Thomas More, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Philip Neri. ‘Ill humour is no sign of holiness’, asserts, Pope Francis.

St. Paul rightly says that we receive much from the Lord ‘for our enjoyment’ and yet forget them easily. In fact, sadness can be a sign of ingratitude. We can get so caught up in ourselves that we are unable to recognize God’s gifts. We must be able to say along with St. Thomas More, “Grant me, O Lord, a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good; grant me a sense of good humour; give me the grace to be able to take a joke and to discover in life a bit of joy and to be able to share it with others”.

*With the love of a father, God tells us to treat ourselves well and not to deprive ourselves of a happy day (Cf. Sir 14:11.14). God wants us to be positive, grateful and uncomplicated, to be joyful in the day of prosperity; God created human beings straightforward, but they have devised many schemes (Cf. Eccl 7:14.29). Come what may, we should remain resilient and imitate St. Paul who says that he had learnt to be content with what he had. St. Francis of Assisi could be overwhelmed with gratitude before a piece of hard bread and joyfully praise God simply for the breeze that caressed his face. **Dear Sisters, how wonderful our communities will be if we are grateful for all that we receive! We too can become saints if we learn to be grateful always!***

The Roman Pontiff tells us that *fraternal love* increases our capacity for joy since it makes us capable of rejoicing in the good of others: “*Rejoice with those who rejoice*” (Rom12:15). “*We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong;*” (2 Cor. 13:9). We need to realize that there is more happiness in giving than in receiving. In this way, we can combat the influence of an individualistic and consumerist culture that tempts us to focus primarily on our own needs and condemn ourselves to a **joyless existence** (Cf. GE122-128).

We note in almost all the letters of Mother Mazzarello a repeated question: ‘Are you cheerful?’ Just to mention a few: as she writes to Sr. Teresina the first question is: “Are you cheerful?” “I want you to be cheerful and keep all your Sisters cheerful too” (L.41). While writing to Sr. Vittoria Cantu’, Mother Mazzarello says: “*you tell me you are happy and I rejoice in that*” (L.42). She tells the newly professed Sr. Laura Rodriguez, “never lose the cheerfulness which the Lord wants” (L.43). **So dear Sisters, let us be cheerful always as we serve the Lord in His people.**

Holiness is Boldness and Passion

Jesus himself comes and tells us once more serenely yet firmly: “Do not be afraid”. These words enable us to go forth and serve with the same courage that the Holy Spirit stirred up in the Apostles, impelling them to proclaim Jesus Christ. Boldness, enthusiasm, the freedom to speak out, apostolic fervour: they all mean only one thing: *courage to proclaim the good news*. The Supreme Pontiff says that often we are tempted to keep close to the shore. Yet the *Lord calls us to put out into the deep and let down our nets* (cf. Lk. 5:4). He bids us spend our lives in his service. We see Jesus who with His deep compassion reached out to others. It did not make him hesitant, timid or self-conscious as it often happens with us. Boldness and apostolic courage are an essential part of our mission.

Holy Father warns us so that **we may not be paralyzed by fear and excessive caution and not to grow used to keeping within safe bounds**. Let us remember that closed spaces grow musty and unhealthy. Like the prophet Jonah, we are constantly tempted to flee to a safe haven. It can have many names: individualism, spiritualism, living in a little world, addiction, stubbornness, rejection of new ideas and approaches, rigidity, nostalgia, pessimism, and hiding behind rules and regulations. Let us listen to the God of tenderness who invites us to set out ever anew on our journey; to pass beyond what is familiar and go to the fringes and beyond. He takes us to where humanity is most wounded. Jesus is already there in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, in their wounded flesh, in their troubles and in their profound

desolation. *Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to hesitate when the Spirit calls us to take a step forward. Let us welcome the Lord's surprises in our daily life (cf. GE 129 - 139).*

Dear Sisters, can we overcome our fear, excessive caution and our tendency to be within safe bounds and reach out to the young people wounded and discouraged? Let us work with the enthusiasm of the “*da mihi animas cetera tolle*” and with boldness keep alive the Charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in today's context.

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

02	-	Presentation of the Lord / World Day of Consecrated Life
04	-	St. John de Britto
08	-	St. Josephine Margaret Bakhita
09	-	Bl. Eusebia Palomino
11	-	Our Lady of Lourdes / World Day of the Sick
22	-	Chair of St. Peter
25	-	Sts. Versiglia & Caravario

AIL IN THE FAMILY

CELEBRATION OF HOLINESS

It was indeed a magnificent celebration of the Holiness of the entire FMA Province Community of Chennai on 19 January at St. Joseph's Convent, Arni. The month-long spiritual preparation on the theme “Be Holy, Be Happy” accompanied by prayer for every community in the Province, set the entire Province in motion toward the soul-capturing theme of holiness, bringing about transformation in the personal, community and mission life of the Sisters, young people, teachers and members of educating community. Thanks a million for the spiritual intuition and meticulous organization of Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, the Vice Provincial and the Provincial Councillors; for the family spirit, sacrifice, and hard work of Sr. Lourdasamy Eugeni Fatima and the Sisters of the community at Arni; for the creativity and the sense of belonging of all the animators and communities who enlivened the various liturgical moments and family circle events, staged the cultural programmes and participated in all the activities of the day with a contagious joy. May we continue to journey ahead with the same vigour and zeal along the path of holiness!

SINCERE THANKS

- Hearty thanks to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora and the Community of Kodambakkam for hosting the Provincial Team Meet on 5 January, Headmistresses' Meet on 6 January, Economers' Account Submission Meet on 10 and 11 January and FMA PCI History Writing Commission Meet from 24 to 26 January. Sincere appreciation to Sr. Alexandar Amali, the General Coordinator, Sr. Mariadoss Amala, the Academic Coordinator, Sr. Puliyani Lucy, the Provincial Economist and Sr. De Souza Philomena of INB, the leader of the History Writing Commission, for their efficient organization.
- Sincere thanks to Sr. Samala J. Amalorpavam and the Sisters of Auxilium College community for hosting the Animators' Meet on 19th evening and the two-day Apostolic Planning Meet on 20 and 21 January 2019.

- Our gratitude goes to Sr. Fernando Metilda and the community of Vauniya for their hospitality to the ecomomers of Sri Lanka during the submission of Annual House Accounts on 17 and 18 January 2019.
- We thank Sr. Devadoss Margaret and the community of Chetpet and Sr. Antonyraj Christina and the community of St. Mary's, Vellore, for hosting the zonal level Educating Community Meetings on 12 January. Congratulations to Sr. Salas Silvia the Educating Community Coordinator of the province for the meticulous organization.
- We are grateful to Sr. Doss Rosalia and Sr. Pichai Mary Saroja for their zeal and enthusiasm in giving the candidates of Sri Lanka an intense experience of Ashram Life and the necessity to grow 'to the full stature of Christ', from 15 to 24 January at Negombo.

May God bless and reward your generous availability!

TWO NEW MISSIONARIES TO SRI LANKA

I am very glad to communicate to you the good news that our Mother General has commissioned two new missionary sisters to Sri Lanka : Sr. Mamani Liendro María Susi (BOL) and Sr. Nguyen thi Long Phuong Maria (VTN). We are grateful to our Mother General and General Councillors in particular Sr. Deretti Alaide, the General Councillor for Mission ad/inter gentes for their great care and concern for the Sri Lanka Mission.

WELCOME TO THE FORMATION TEAM, ROME

I warmly welcome dear Sr. Rebozo Nieves, the General Councillor for Formation and her team Sr. Fisichella Maria and Sr. Miranda Anelfreda from Rome, who come for the transmission of the Guidelines for the formation period of Temporary Vows. They will animate the Provincial Councillors, the Animators and Formators of our Province from 23 to 26 February at Kodambakkam, the Candidates and Sisters of Sacred Heart Home on 27 February at Katpadi, Junior Sisters on 4 and 5 March and the Novices on 6 March at Manikandam, Tiruchy. We wish and pray that these encounters and animation programmes bring abundant fruit.

CHRISTO-CENTRIC LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The following Sisters will participate in the Christo-Centric Leadership retreat conducted from 4 to 11 March 2019 at Universal Solidarity Movement, Indore: Sr. Mudiappasamy Nirmala, Sr. Sebastian Vimala, Sr. Soosai Josephine Rani, Sr. Irudayam Nirmal Rose, Sr. Kulandaisamy Lourdummy, Sr. Ambrose Arokia Jeyaceli, Sr. Bathalapalli Irudaya Mary Sr. Mariapragasam Reetha and Sr. Maria Louis Sirumalar.

WORKSHOP ON VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sr. Lourdusamy Emily, Sr. Packianathan Mary Rita, Sr. Arockiasami Celine Mary, Sr. Rayappan Selvi, Sr. Peter Ganesan Ragini, Sr. William Vasantha Priya, Sr. Antony Sheeba, Sr. Arockiasamy Suseela and Sr. Mariadoss Brijit will be participating in the Workshop on Vacation Bible School (VBS) at TNBCLC, Tindivanam, on 16 and 17 February, on the theme: "Media and Human Relationships".

TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

Sr. Antony Raj Maria Theresa, Sr. Andrew Roseline, Sr. William Vasantha Priya, and Sr. Francis Amala Nayagi will be participating in the 'Training for the Child Care Institutions and Boardings' at Mannivakkam on 9 and 10 February 2019, animated by Sr. Alphonse Isabella, and Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila the NDF and the SD Coordinators in collaboration with the Miracle Foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES

- ✚ We rejoice at the appointment of Rev. Fr. Stephen Antony of Vellore Diocese as the new bishop of Tuticorin by our Holy Father, Pope Francis on 17 January 2019. We accompany him with our prayers for this new mission of being a good shepherd to his diocese.
- ✚ Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Most Rev. Dr. Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman who was elected as the new President of the CCBI, Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Chennai - Mylapore and Most Rev. Dr. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi who were re-elected as CCBI Vice President and Secretary General respectively by the 31st Plenary Assembly of the National Episcopal Conference of India.
- ✚ Congratulations to SDB INM and INT Provinces for the meaningful celebration of their PC 2019 and in particular to the delegates of the forthcoming General Chapter, Fr. Joe Andrew and Fr. Lourdusamy Don Bosco of Chennai, and Fr. Pinto Sagaya Francis and Fr. Amala Jeyarayan of Tiruchy Provinces.
- ✚ During the 5th Regional Congress of the Salesian Co-operators held on January 25 and 26, 2019, at the Provincial House, Citadel, Chennai, Mr. K. E. Arockia Arasu from Katpadi has been elected as the Coordinator for the South Zone and Secretary of the South Asia Region, Mr. Hubert Felenon from Chennai as the Treasurer of South Zone and Mr. Jayaraj from Tiruchy as South Zone Secretary. We congratulate them as they take up their leadership roles and assure them of our prayerful support.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

We celebrate 27th World Day of the Sick on 11 February 2019, the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. "*You received without payment; give without payment*" (Mt10:8) is the theme of the Pope's Message for this day. The joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian, says our Holy Father. Let us intensify our prayers for our Sisters who are ailing especially Sr. Jeganathan Clara, Sr. James Glorina and others. Let us be generous in sharing our time, gifting our care and concern to the sick and elderly in our communities, seeing the face of Christ in them.

I welcome dear Sr. Rodrigues Auxilia, our Missionary in the Province of AES, who will be arriving in Chennai on 4 February for her medical treatment. We wish and pray for her speedy recovery.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones:

- To Sr. Anthony Cruz Mathalen who lost her beloved mother Mrs. Ragini (65) on 4 January.
- To Sr. Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam at the death of her brother-in-law Mr. Santhanam (63) on 4 January.

- To Sr. Pichai Mary Saroja at the demise of her elder sister Mrs. John Mary Philomena Ponnaiyan (79) on 10 January.
- To the Provincial and confreres of Bangalore at the passing away of Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekadathu (91) on 15 January 2019 and Bro. Mathew Aayila SDB (80) on 20 January.

UPCOMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2019

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| 01 | : | VIDES Formation Meet, Kodambakkam |
| 02 | : | Juniors' & Chennai Zone Seniors' Tri-monthly Recollection, Kodambakkam, Vavuniya |
| 03 | : | Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, Tirupattur, MIC |
| 08 - 09 | : | Tri-monthly Animation and Recollection for Juniors, Negombo, Sri Lanka |
| 09 | : | Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, S.H.Home, Yercaud, Negombo, |
| 23 - 26 | : | Provincial Councillors, Animators & Formators' Meet, Kodambakkam |
| 27 | : | Formation Meet for Aspirants and Postulants, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi |

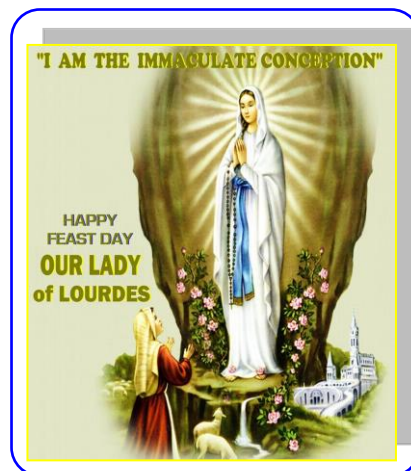
As you know, the 34th World Youth Day was celebrated from 22 to 27 January 2019 in Panama on the theme "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word." (Lk. 1:38). We are happy and proud to note that at the World Youth Day, Pope Francis spoke about Don Bosco, saying, "...Don Bosco learned to see everything that happened in the city with the eyes of God and, thus, his heart was stricken by hundreds of children, of abandoned young people without a chance for study, without work and without the helping hand of a community... he was courageous, and he dared to take that first step: to embrace life just as it comes and, from there, he was not afraid to take the second step: to create with them a community, a family, where, with work and study, they felt loved; to give them roots from which to hold themselves up, so that they can reach heaven, so that they can be someone in society". Yes, that is what Don Bosco did, that's what the saints do, and that's what has to be done by each one of us as Salesian consecrated women: look at young people with the eyes of God, love them and give them roots!

I wish you all a very happy feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Consecrated Life!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



FEBRUARY 2019

- 01 - VIDES Formation Meet, Kodambakka
- 02 - Tri monthly Recollection, Kodambakkam
- 03 - Juniors Animation, Kodambakkam
- 04 - 05 - Provincial Office
- 06 - 07 - Mannivakkam, Provincial Team Visit
- 08 - 09 - Nandambakkam, Provincial Team Visit
- 10 - 14 - Phillipines
- 15 - Provincial office
- 16 - 17 - Provincial council, Kodambakkam
- 18 - 19 - Erode, Provincial visit
- 20 - Pethanaickenpalayam, Provincial visit
- 21 - Provincial Office
- 22 - Arrival of Sr. Rebozo Nieves and her team, Rome
- 23 - 26 - Meeting with Formation Team, Kodambakkam
- 27 - Formation Team visit to Sacred Heart Home
- 28 - Provincial office

MARCH - 2019

- 01 - Provincial office
- 02 - Recollection, Kodambakkam
- 03 - Journey to Tiruchy
- 04 - 05 - Formation meet with Juniors, Manikandam, Tiruchy
- 06 - Formation meet with Juniors, Manikandam, Tiruchy