



CIR. NO. 56

FEBRUARY - 2022

Dearest Sisters,

We have just celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is also known as the Feast of the Encounter: a meeting between the young and the old: the young were Mary and Joseph with their infant son and the old were Simeon and Anna, two people who often went to the Temple. And in the consecrated life we live the encounter between the young and the old, between observation and prophecy. At this juncture, we appreciate with gratitude the richness sisters in their advanced age bring to our communities and Province. In our encounter with our senior sisters, we thank them for their indispensable contribution to the fabric of the community, for creating a peaceful presence in the community and keeping alive the family spirit, for looking at young people with benevolence, narrating their story with unction and living the educative passion through the commitment of prayer and offering and when possible through different forms of pastoral presence, for listening attentively to the young people, being available to the needs of the community and those of the local Church, the apostolate, for recognizing the community mediations and facilitating the task of animation through prayer and moral support, for offering with discretion and humility a proactive contribution of their council and discernment in assessing the reality, for making themselves available for commitments of charity, of volunteering, of assistance both in the community and ecclesial environment.

Pope Francis says; “It’s good for the elderly to communicate their wisdom to the young, and it’s good for the young people to gather this wealth of experience and wisdom, and to carry it forward, not to safeguard it in a museum, but to carry it forward addressing the challenges that life brings, to carry it forward for the sake of the respective religious orders and of the whole Church.” Our charism needs all the gifts, of every colour and shade. The fruitfulness of the *Da mihi animas*’ is not related to physical energy but is proportionate to the energy of love. The words of Don Bosco “you will add the colours” allow us to conclude that at any age we can contribute to the sketch drawn by our Founder. May the grace of this mystery, the mystery of the Encounter, enlighten and revitalize us on our journey.

MESSAGE OF LOURDES AND 30 WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: We rejoice to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11 February 2022. Our Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette, Toinette and Jeanne eighteen times in the Grotto of Massabielle. In Bernadette’s time, the Grotto was a dirty, hidden, damp and cold place. The grotto was called the ‘pig’s shelter’ because that was where the pigs feeding in the area usually took shelter. It was there that the Virgin Mary, dressed in white, a sign of total purity, the sign of the love of God, in other words, the sign of what God wishes to accomplish in each of us deigned to appear. The Grotto is not only a place where something happened – a geographical place – it is also a place where God gives us a sign by revealing his heart and our heart. It is a place where God leaves us a message, a message that is nothing other than that of the Gospel. God comes to tell us that He loves us, He loves us as we are with all our successes but also with all our wounds, our weaknesses and our limitations.

Pope Francis invites us to celebrate 11 February 2022 as the world day of the sick with the message entitled “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”. He reaffirms that the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions and their commitment to caring for and treating people. At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like “houses of mercy”, can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end.” We are grateful to the communities, which take delicate care of the Sisters who are sick and aging. Those sisters who suffer with submission to the will of God draw down more blessings on the whole convent. God often grants many and great graces out of regard for the soul who are suffering. Let us entrust all the sick and their families to the intercession of Mary. Let us also pray for healthcare workers everywhere that rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

SR. EUSEBIA PALAMINO: Eusebia Palomino Yenes was born in Cantalpino in the province of Salamanca, in the west of Spain, 15 December 1899. Augustine Palomino’s family was very poor. At certain times of the year, Eusebia and her father had to go begging in nearby villages, but they did so with joy and singular faith. On those long journeys, Augustine taught his daughter her faith, and she was keen to learn the mysteries of Our Lord. Eusebia worked, prayed and was loved in her family. The day of her first communion was one that Eusebia experienced intently. Soon after she was employed to help a well to do family. She did not stop giving attention to her growth as an adolescent putting her friendship with Jesus in the first place. She wanted to become a sister. One day while hoeing, she found a medal of Mary Help of Christians. Soon afterwards, a mysterious friend led her to the Sisters’ oratory. They invited her to stay with them as a helper. Oddly enough, the kitchen became her place for educating, and they would often trot along to the kitchen to get a kind word from this ignorant young kitchen lass. She was sent to Salamanca, to look after the children, then as an assistant in a hostel. Oddly enough, the kitchen became her place for educating, and they would often trot along to the kitchen to get a kind word from this ignorant young kitchen lass. She carried out her ordinary service extraordinarily like Don Bosco. The girls always wanted to be near her, attracted by her spirituality. She began to work in the oratory. Seminarians, adults and priests asked her advice, encouraged by her spirit of prayer and convincing faith. She spread devotion to the Lord’s Holy wounds and the so-called “Marian servitude” of Saint Louis M. G. de Montfort. Like Don Bosco, she had received the gift of prophecy from the Lord. She predicted the Spanish civil war and offered herself as a victim for Spain. Then she began to feel unwell. Her Director, Sr. Carmen Moreno, who became a martyr and blessed, looked after her, while she gave some thought to her situation. Sr. Eusebia prophesied her martyrdom. Before she died, she had visions and ecstasies. She went to the Lord on 10 February 1933. John Paul II declared her Blessed on the 25 April 2002. Her body is laid to rest at Valverde. As we celebrate with joy the feast of Blessed Eusebia, let us implore her blessings on the houses of Regunathapuram and Keela Eral which bear her name.

WITHIN THE FAMILY:

CONGRATULATIONS: On 10 January 2022, we received the good news that our beloved Mother General, Chiara Cazzuola was appointed by Pope Francis as the Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences “Auxilium” in Rome. Pope approved this proposal on 2 November 2021. Till then the Grand Chancellor was the Rector Major of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco and the Vice Grand Chancellor was the Superior General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Our Holy Father confers this honour to our Mother General and the Institute with confidence and appreciation. We

congratulate our dear Mother General for the new mission entrusted to her and implore God's blessings on her and Auxilium in Rome.

SECOND NOVITIATE FIRST PHASE: Sr.Pichaimuthu Masilin Mariya, Sr.Raja Clarenca Mary along with thirty-two young sisters from seven different congregations from different parts of India made the first phase of their second novitiate in Lumen Institute, Tindivanam from 29 November to 23 December 2021 and from 2 January to 15 January 2022. They cherish the classes taken by Rt. Rev. Peter Abir - the Bishop of Sultanpet, Rev. Fr. Micheal Raj from St. Paul's Seminary - Trichy, Rev. Sr. Ruby – Ex Provincial of Servite Congregation, Rev. Fr. Suresh OFM Cap - from Anugraha, Sr. Violet, FSAG from Anugraha on the Book of Revelation, Biblical Discipleship, Evangelical Counsels, Neuro-Linguistic Programme, Growing in healthy Religious Personality respectively. We pray that they grow in their Christian, religious vocation with ever more joy and commitment.

PCI MEETING: Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron virus all over India, the PCI Meeting from 1 - 2 February 2022 was held virtually. The meeting commenced with an inaugural ceremony with the help of the Novices of Tiruchirapalli, Manikandam. On first February 2022, the PCI members were welcomed virtually with garlands, bouquets, kumkum and arathi. Sr. James Arokia Doss Micheal Avila a second-year Novice delivered a message of St. John Bosco to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians responding to the signs of the time. Sr. Jacob Celine, the Visiting Counselor in her inaugural address brought to light the significance of coming together in preparation for the 150 Anniversary of the foundation of our Institute. She exhorted the members to glimpse at the past with gratitude, live the present with confidence and dream for the future of our Mission with vivacity and novelty of the Gospel. All the National coordinators presented crisply the vision, objectives, action plan and best practices of their respective areas of animation based on the theme of GCXXIV. In the evening, the heads of all the Centenary Celebration Committees joined the portal to present their journey and the activities carried out by the committee. On 2 February 2022, the meeting commenced with an inspiring speech delivered by Rev. Fr. Xavier Terrence a professor from St. Pauls Seminary, Tiruchirapalli on the theme of Synodality. This was followed by a discussion on the common centenary calendar 2022 - 2023, Inter-Provincial second Novitiate and Juniorate, action plans of various sectors, a retreat for the Provincials, Registration of NDF as a Society, 100 success stories of YAR, the appointment of National coordinators, evaluation of Research on Preventive System and Revision of the fee structure and missionaries to Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Our sincere gratitude to Sr. Lazar Nirmala the PCI president who hosted the meeting in collaboration with Sr. Kanickaraj M Tamizharasi the PCI Secretary and delivered the welcome speech, Sr. Elizabeth Ross the coordinator of the day on 1 February 2022, to the community of Auxilium Provincial House and Sacred Heart Novitiate who prepared for the meeting and the resource persons. Our sincere thanks to all the outgoing National coordinators, Sr. Komuhra Lydia (ING) - National General Coordinator, Sr. Tamizharasi (INM) National Coordinator for Formation, Sr. Kaniampady E. Molly (ING) National Coordinator for Youth Pastoral, Sr. Saminathan Clara (INC) - National Coordinator for Education, Sr. Braganza Hilda (INB) National Coordinator for Social Communication, Sr. Savarimuthu Bala (INK) National Coordinator for Mission ad/Inter Gentes, Sr. Anthonappa Moksha Mary (INB) National Coordinator for Young at Risk for their committed service during the past years. The forthcoming Centenary Celebration of the arrival of our Pioneers to India is proposed to be held in Katpadi in September 2022. Let us pray for the meaningful celebration of the centenary.

WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE: Sr. Maria del Rosario Garcia Ribas, the Vicar General has communicated that the Feast of World Day of Gratitude on this 150 year of Foundation of our Institute will take place in the land of our origins TURIN, MORNESE, NIZZA in the Piedmontese Province of "Mary Help of Christians" with the following itinerary:

Sunday 24 April Turin and Mornese

Monday 25 April Mornese and Turin

Tuesday 26 April Nizza

Let us invoke God's blessings on our dear Mother General, her councillors and the entire institute, that we may continue to serve the Lord with passion for souls.

PROVINCE GRATITUDE DAY 2022: The twin celebration of the Province Gratitude Day and the Blessing of the Vocational Training Centre at Cittampatti, Madurai will be held on 13 February 2022. The Theme for the celebration will be "DO ALL THROUGH LOVE". The celebration comprises three weeks from 5 to 28 February 2022. As this celebration is taking place in a historical year marked with the celebration of the 4th centenary of the death of the Holy Bishop of Geneva St. Francis de Sales, the 150th year of the birth of our Institute and the Centenary of our presence in our motherland India, let us commit ourselves to read Diamond years Volume III and assimilate the articles of the Constitution on Mission (Art. 63-76).

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION:

- To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and Community for hosting the first Annual Retreat for Forty Sisters from 26 December 2021 to 02 January 2022.
- To Sr. Kanikaraj M. Tamizharasi for coordinating the PCI online Formation Commission meeting on 3 and 19 January 2022.
- To Sr. Peter Selvarani the Province General coordinator for conducting the online meeting in collaboration with Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, Sr. Savari Raj Arockiya Sophiya, Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi sharing their insights on Pope's Message on the world day of peace, Rector Majors message on Strenna 2022, UNO themes respectively on 6 January 2022 with all the Sisters of the Province on 19 January 2022. The opening talk on Faith followed by the talks based on the themes of the year was an impetus to animate Educating Community Meeting at the local level in each community.
- To Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam and all the Councillors for their sharing with the Animators on Docibilitas, educational institutes, Salesian Family, administration, Non-violent communication and social ministry during the online meeting held on 7 January 2022.
- To Sr. Nicastro Maria Luisa and her team in Generalate - Rome who had an introductory online encounter with all the Province Secretaries the world over on 17 January 2022.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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| 06 | Tri - Monthly Recollection preached by Fr. Dionysius Director of St. Paul's Institute of Theology, Tiruchirapalli on Discipleship in Acts of the Apostles. |
| 09 | Online animation on Digital Document Management by Fr. Xavier Packiam from 06.30 – 08.00 p.m. |
| 13 | Provincial community day – Chittampatti
Blessing of Chittampatti –VTC centre. |

LET'S CELEBRATE – FEBRUARY 2022

- 02 - The presentation of the Lord – feast
- 04 - St. John De Britto, Mtr, mem.
- 05 - St. Agatha, Vgn and Mtr, mem.
- 07 - Blessed Pius IX
- 09 - B.Eusebia Palomino Yenes V.
- 11 - The Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes – opt mem.
World Day of the sick
- 18 - S. Kuriakose Elias Chavara , mem
- 22 - The Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle – Feast
- 25 - Ss. Louis Versiglia, bishop, and Callistus Caravario, priest Salesian
protomartyrs
Blessed Rani Maria, mem

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE AND PRAYERS

† To Sr. Anthiah Josephine and family over the demise of Mrs. Catherine (68) – the elder sister, who passed away on 1 January 2022

† To Fr. K.M. Jose and confreres of SDB, INM over the passing away of Bro. Laleth Sugan (31) who died in a fatal accident on 3 January 2022

† To Sr. Anthony Dass Arocia Marial (novice belonging to INM over the sudden demise of Mr. Antony Stephen Kumar (33) in Athipakkam, Thirukovilur on 16 January 2022

† To Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam and her family who lost her father Mr. Amirthasamy (89) in Kaveri Nagar, Mettur Dam on 24 January 2022

† To Sr. Antony Raja Pushpam and Sr. Antony Regina who lost their elder Sister, Mrs. Thomas Antony (72) on 2 February 2022 in Tuticorin.

May the Lord grant the faithful departed His eternal beatification.

Let us also pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Barbon Arokia Jebamani who died on 14 February 2020 and Fr. Arthur J. Lenti who passed (98) away in the hospital of Belflower (Los Angeles) California, USA – a monument in the study of Don Bosco, Salesian History and spirituality.

Blessed Eusebia, whose feast we celebrate this month always had a sweet smile on her lips, giving the feeling that she was always in the presence of the Lord. May she guide and inspire us in our day-to-day life.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret
Provincial.