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JUNE 2020

Dearest Sisters,

MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

June is the beautiful month of the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is the Heart of the God-Man. We look at the pierced wounded Heart of the God-Man as the most fitting and moving symbol of Jesus' love for His Heavenly Father and for humankind. The heart symbolizes the entire interior life of a person and so, devotion to the Heart of Jesus takes us into the very core of Jesus' person, which as St. John tells us, is love. As Pope Pius XII taught, the Heart of Jesus is the most fitting symbol of his threefold love for humankind. First, the infinite love which is proper to Him as the Word of God, second person of Blessed Trinity; secondly, the Divine Love, which is infused into His human soul as charity, thirdly, His human sensible love. How consoling that God, as our Creator, knows we need to be loved in a human way with warmth, feeling, and tenderness.

Jesus is manifesting His merciful love, a love which takes us into the very core of the Divine Person including His intellect, will, and emotional life and leads us also into the mystery of Triune love. His Heart takes us into the bosom of the Father and is the source of the living water, which is the Holy Spirit. (Jn 7:37).

The Second Vatican Council taught in *Gaudium et Spes*, "He loved us with a human heart." Jesus invites us to contemplate the mystery of His Heart in Matthew's Gospel where He cries out, "learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart". Through His Heart, Jesus invites us to contemplate His Divine person, now made accessible to us in the mystery of the Incarnation. The Litany of the Sacred Heart certainly is one of the most beautiful because it guides us into the mystery of Jesus' divinity and His sacred humanity, united in one divine person, and meaningfully presents the sentiments of His Heart.

Our heart is the most precious thing we own and since it is so intimate it is the last thing we give. It was His last gift that He gave on the Cross, when He allowed His side and His Heart to be opened and pierced to reveal the depths of His love even in death. As St. Margaret Mary Alacoque put it: "Our Lord Jesus Christ desires that we should, for sanctifying ourselves, glorify his all-loving Heart; for it was His Heart that suffered the most in His sacred humanity."

Don Bosco had received from God "a heart as great as the sands of the seashore". **Mother Mazzarello** frequently exhorted having a great and generous heart. In her letter 24 she writes: "Don't have a small heart, but one which is generous, great and without many fears." **St Faustina** says: "Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love

which lends value to our actions. And the purer our love becomes, the less there will be within us, for the flames of suffering to feed upon, and the suffering will cease to be a suffering for us; it will become a delight! By the grace of God, I have received such a disposition of heart that I am never so happy as when I suffer for Jesus, whom I love with every beat of my heart.” “Coldness and hatred can be melted and overcome only by the fire of love,” says **Timothy O’Donnell** a writer. “Certainly, in an age characterized by an increasing hostile secularization, a spirituality that centers on love and aims at setting the world on fire is precisely what is needed”

Christ himself has promised to bless those who humbly and fervently approach the mystery of His Heart. As **St. Thomas Aquinas** says so beautifully in his hymn: “Truth himself, speaks truly or there is nothing true.” And it’s important to take to heart what **Mother Teresa** said: “Do not let the past disturb you – just leave everything to the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy.”

LAUDATO SI` SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Pope Francis announced a special year of Laudato Si` from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021. This special year is to commemorate the V Anniversary of the Encyclical of Pope Francis, Laudato Si (2015).

Laudato Si` Prayer for the Year: “Loving God, creator of Heaven, of earth and of all that they contain. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of creation, your gift. Be present to the needy in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes geared to the search for the common good. Now more than ever, may we be able to feel that we are all inter - connected and interdependent. Make sure that we succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray to you through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians. Amen.”

The reasons for the specialty of the year are: It is the V anniversary of Laudato Si`; Advent of Covid 19 has made us aware of the interconnectivity and interdependence; and to leave a better world to our Children.

The goals of the year are to pay heed to the cry of the earth for a clean planet, to respond to the cry of the Poor: for the defense of human life, for ecological economics, adoption of simple life styles, ecological Education, ecological Spirituality, Community involvement and participation.

The activities of the year comprises of the release of the Guidelines for the year (June 2020); Webinar on assessment and future journey (18 June 2020); season for creation (1 September to 4 October 2020); Series of Webinars (from October to November); World Economic Forum (26 – 29 January 2021); Gathering of Religious Leaders (Early spring 2021); and World Water Day (26 March 2021).

Special projects for the year proposed are documentary film on Laudato Si`; Laudato si` Living Chapels; Laudato Si` Institutes Network; Laudato Si` Tree Initiative; Plastic Bank; Fight against plastic Pollution; and Bible Quiz

The 7 – year plan after the year will include for families, dioceses, schools, universities, health centres, agricultural farms and for religious communities.

The awards for the year will be for outstanding Laudato Si` Leader (Global and local); For outstanding Laudato Si` Family; For Outstanding Laudato Si` Educational Institution; For Outstanding Laudato Si` Faith Community; For Outstanding Laudato Si` Action Initiative; For Outstanding Laudato Si` economy, Health, Farm, etc; For Outstanding Laudato Si` Communication Initiative.

Sr. Borja Runita in one of her letters invites us to express our commitment to be witnesses of goodness and hope through this link: <http://livelaudatosi.org/> It is possible to sign individually, but also as FMA community, families, groups, oratory-youth centers, schools, universities, parishes, associations, etc. We are invited to disseminate this initiative with the members of the Educating communities in order to be a movement that transforms the world with small everyday gestures.”

WITHIN THE FAMILY:

PANDEMIC CRACKS SPACE FOR HUMAN SENSITIVITY

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: As a single act of love to God and His people, the Sisters in Divyadhanam community and Auxilium Provincial House along with ASSIST the Social Development Office of the Province got on board to serve the marginalized in our neighbourhood who were grieved with anxiety and pain. The 3 villages where we render our service consists of the daily wage earners, beggars and small vendors who were threatened by loss of livelihood, food, shelter, health and basic needs. These people who generally suffer malnourishment and untreated illness were running the risk of getting the problems exacerbated due to lack of food supplies and health services. Known for domestic violence and petty fights between drunkards, the status of women and children were a matter of great concern. Sisters and the lay Staff engaged themselves in providing psychosocial care for the stressed and the depressed. Arrangements were made with the local leaders and food supplies were distributed for 753 families consisting of nearly 3765 members. 75 local Policemen were supported with Personal Protection Equipment to ensure their safety. Though this Pandemic has stripped life and hushed it into sorrow and silence the throbbing of human hearts became louder through charity and fraternal acts supported by people far and near. We express our heartfelt gratitude to our Donors, Volunteers, and Well-wishers who supported us in this noble act.

MADRAS- GEORGE TOWN: The community of Madras George Town shared a relief package consisting of foodstuff, soap, toothpaste, surgical mask etc. with love among sixty-five families.

MADRAS – TIRUVOTTIYUR: The Sisters of Tiruvottiyur were able to reach out to fifty seven poorest families to meet their basic needs during the pandemic.

TIRUPPUR - S.MARIA D. MAZZARELLO: The Community of Tiruppur had the joy of Supporting **15 families of migrant youngsters** by distributing dry ration materials, grocery items and vegetables at KVR Nagar, Tiruppur. The second phase of Corona Relief work was done for 75 families at Murugakoundan Pudur village and 40 families of Chettipudur colony with the due permission from the government. Things were distributed in the Presence of

Mrs. Shanthi, Thasildhar of Avinasi Block, Mr. Bharathi VAO, The leaders and the senior members of the village. Grocery items and 250 Masks were distributed, awareness on COVID – 19 was given, and handouts were distributed to everyone. On the same day, dinner was prepared and shared with **55 Migrant young girls** who are left unnoticed in the hostels. In the third phase the Railway cleaning workers' families were supported with foodstuff.

DINDIGUL MARIANATHAPURAM: The Community of Dindigul Marianthapuram joyfully reached out to 350 families of Evening Coaching Class Children and Past Pupils with foodstuff required for their daily life.

COIMBATORE – MADONNA DELLA STRADA: The Coimbatore Community enthusiastically reached out to 100 tribal families of Nellithorai Block and Guntoor, 25 tribal families of Parayakombai, 31 families of Adi Dravidar Colony, and eight families of Sivanthapuram - Coimbatore with foodstuff required for their daily living.

MADRAS - POTHUR: The community of Pothur went in search of the senior citizens who could not help themselves and provided fifty families with foodstuff.

Thanks to all the benefactors, generous sponsors and the communities who supported the Corona victims with prayers and material help. Let us continue to reach out to our people.

III ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE PROVINCE: Three gracious years have swiftly glided after the erection of our Province. Our hearts break forth with joy at the marvelous ways the Lord and our Blessed Mother lead and guided us. Mary who makes Jesus tangible, concrete, accessible to our senses and it is she who helps us to get a sense of God's action and presence in our world. On this beautiful day, let us thank our Blessed Mother and joining with all the Sisters of our Province, renew our entrustment to our blessed mother and pray for our Young People and the entire human race.

GENERAL CHAPTER: Our dear Mother General in her Circular 998 title **New Convocation of General Chapter XXIV** officially convokes G.C. XXIV according to the Norms of Article 138 of the Constitutions of the Institute. It will begin in Rome at the Generalate on 17 April 2021, and the conclusion is expected to be on 19 May 2021. Listening to the current reality, dense with challenges and unprecedented opportunities, she confirms the theme of the Chapter according to this formulation:

“Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2: 5).

Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity.

Some of the new indications for General chapter XXIV are:

- By Monday 11 April 2021: Capitulars arrive in Rome.
- From 12 to 14 April: Days of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit.
- On 15 and 16 April: Presentation of the technology and the directives for General Chapter XXIV.
- On 17 April: Official Opening of General Chapter XXIV.
- The maximum duration of five weeks is foreseen with closure on 19 May 2021.
- The departure of the Capitulars from Rome is foreseen from 20 May 2021.

Let us continue to pray the Entrustment prayer in preparation for the forth-coming General Chapter.

WELCOME HOME SDB CAPITULARS: A warm and hearty welcome to the SDB capitulars who after their General chapter have arrived from Italy. May they experience the

guidance of Mary in being a mystic in the spirit, prophet of fraternity and servant of the young, promoting a fresh awareness of their identity.

CONGRATULATIONS: Rev. Fr. Joseph Pauria assumed his office as the seventeenth Provincial of Kolkata Province on 17 May 2020 at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin. We congratulate and implore God's blessings on him for his generosity to keep alive the Charism of Don Bosco. May our Blessed Mother accompany Him in his new venture.

RENEWALS AND PROFESSIONS: "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." Is.26: 3. The days of Renewal of the Vows, the First and the Final Profession were a unique experience to be etched in the heart of every Junior Sister in the Province. ***The Annual Retreat and the Juniors Summer Course on God Experience in the light of the Scriptures, Evangelical Vows, Prayer an experience of listening with the ear of the Heart*** in the life of Mother Mazzarello and Salesian Identity by Fr. Biji Thomas, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, Sr. Ambrose Little Flower and me respectively helped them to reflect and share their experiential knowledge with one another. May their deep God experience linger on in their mind and heart, to make their lives fruitful in service. After making their Annual Retreat in Sacred Heart Home, ***twelve Postulants of INM and INT*** arrived at the Divyadhanam Novitiate on 29 May 2020 and received the Novices medals on 31 May 2020. Let us accompany them with our prayers. I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Cruz Anthoni Micheala and community for availing their time, resources and service for the growth of the young Sisters.

TRANSFERS: I am gratefully indebted to each one of you for your spirit of obedience lived in all simplicity, in the Salesian attitude of "I'll go", ready even to make great sacrifices of your will to partake in the salvific mission of Christ among the young. Let us support one another with our prayers, as Sisters will go to the new Communities on or before the 13th of this month. May the Lord bless, support, guide, protect, and comfort you so that you may start your day off on the right foot. The installation of the Animators will be held on the date when the possibility arises.

I also recommend each one of you to take care of our younger generations and our Collaborators as they enter into the portals of our houses to complete their Public exams and begin their new Scholastic year. May they be the apple of our eyes and may we creatively reach out to them to face the new challenges of the new academic year.

VOCATION PROMOTION: 'The goal towards which all our pastoral work must be directed is the education of young women to discern God's plan for them in their lives and to accept this as their mission.' (Constitutions 72). Paying heed to the voice of Jesus: "the Harvest is great but the labourers are few, Let us ask God for vocations by incessant prayer and by our own joyful and constant fidelity. Let us accompany the young people with tender loving care.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS DURING THE PANDEMIC:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi - the National Development Coordinator organized a video conference ***on Planning strategies for Social Ministry to respond to the impacts of Pandemic in our mission at the National Level and to identify Inter-sectoral possibilities*** for twelve participants of seven Provinces from 24 to 25 April, 2020. The aim of the conference was to orient the Province Team members to reflect upon the impacts of pandemic and plan our responses sector wise. The SDCs coordinated the

strategic planning at the Province level to draft the action plan for Social ministry as a response to the challenges and opportunities caused by the pandemic.

The Social Development Office organized a Video Conference on *Planning Strategies to respond to the impact of our mission as a Province* in order to orient the Province Team Members to reflect upon the impacts of pandemic and plan our responses sector wise on **7 May, 2020** for 16 participants. The sharing helped the Team Members and Province Councilors to draft action plans to make concrete choices in the sectors.

During the Pandemic **Weekly contacts** were established with the 10 staff in the Social Development Office to share the activities implemented successfully and the challenges faced in order to monitor and evaluate the activities of various target groups and the regular follow-up of the staff.

QUEST ALLIANCE: With the help of Quest Alliance, a video conference was animated for twenty-four participants on Digital learning in pandemic on 13 May 2020 with the aim of facilitating the partners to respond during the pandemic in the field of employment. The discussions helped them to learn about the pandemic impacts on livelihoods and gender issues.

ACADEMIC SECTOR: Sr. Fernando Majella - the Academic Coordinator of the Province called upon twenty-five Headmistresses of the Province to rethink on the Education Ministry during Covid 19, with the aim of reaching out to the rural children in our educational institutions on 4 June 2020. The video conference commenced with a brief introductory talk on how to move from intelligence to wisdom by me. Through their sharing, they decided to reach out to the students through online classes.

Headed by Sr. Borja Runita and Sr. Pfozhumai Neli Lolia Annie, Sr. Saminathan Clara PCI Academic Coordinator organized a video conference for the seven Academic Coordinators from seven FMA Provinces of India on 30 May 2020. The main aim of the meeting was to take innovative steps to reach out to the educants and prepare a checklist for an educative response to Covid 19 Pandemic. The conference advocated enriching pragmatic mutual exchange of ideas among the participants.

ANNUAL CALENDAR AND PLAN AND PROJECT: Due to Covid 19 Pandemic lockdown, the Annual calendar will be rescheduled and communicated at the earliest to the communities corresponding to the re-opening date of the Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu. Each community can draw the Plan and project for the year 2020 - 2021 drawing the inspiration from the Apostolic plan of 2020 – 2025.

LET'S CELEBRATE JUNE 2020

- 07 Trinity Sunday
- 08 Bl. Stephen Sandor
- 11 St. Barnabas
- 12 Bl. Francis Kesy & Comp.
- 14 Corpus Christi
- 19 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 20 Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 29 Saints Peter and Paul

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

- † To the Provincial and Confreres of INB Province at the death of Fr. Byron D'Silva, on 27 May at Andheri.
- † To the Ratisbonne Salesian Community at the demise of Rev. Fr. Stephen Kuncherakatt SDB (86 years old) on 2 June, 2020 at about 10.30 p.m. in Israel.

May their souls rest in peace.

We are grateful to all the Animators for facilitating a conducive ambient for our forty Sisters to make their Annual Retreat in their own communities making use of the resources sent by the Province and others. All of us are aglow with the fervor of the Annual Spiritual Retreat, which we have completed. I conclude by recalling the exhortation of Mother Mazzarello. The Spiritual Exercises should offer us the occasion of renewing the fire, which the Lord has lit in us, of removing some of the ashes accumulated throughout the year, of adding a bit of wood. Let us seek to expand our heart, freeing it from being closed. Let us open wide our heart to Christ! Let us throw it open to wonderment, to joy, to the gift of humble service. Let us become persons filled with wisdom, for an intelligent person preaches and a wise person reaches. Intelligence is good but wisdom achieves better results.



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret
Provincial