



Salesian Sisters
Mazzarello Convent
Kodambakkam
Chennai -600 024

1st September 2009

Provincial Circular

Viva Gesu`!

Dearest Sisters!

I wish to begin this letter with the thoughts of St. Teresa of Avila on the **‘Way of suffering and love’**. She says: “One day the Lord told me this: Do you think, daughter, that merit lies in enjoyment? No! It rather lies in working and suffering and loving. Haven’t you heard that St. Paul rejoiced in heavenly joys only once but suffered often? Look at my whole life filled with suffering. Only in the incident on Mount Tabor you hear about my joy. When you see My Mother holding me in her arms, don’t think she enjoyed those consolations without anguish. From the time Simeon spoke those words to her, My Father gave her clear light to see what I was to suffer. The great saints who lived in deserts, since they were guided by God, performed severe penances; and besides this, they waged great battle with the devil and with themselves. Believe, daughter that My Father gives greater trials to anyone whom He loves more; and love responds to these...”

Here’s another shining example of our present times, *Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta* who said: “I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.” Food for thought indeed!

Since times immemorial, Indians have respected their teachers. Earlier we used to call our teachers *‘Guru’*. And now it’s the modern ‘Sir’ or ‘Madam’. Nonetheless, the role of teachers has remained the same. They were and they are our guides, creating conditions conducive to the overall development of the students entrusted to them. All of us have been students at one time, and therefore we students will always be thankful for their constructive support. As an expression of our thanks, we celebrate *Teachers’ Day* in India. My sincere appreciation and special word of ‘Thanks’ to all the teachers working in our Institutions with so much of dedication and love. God bless you all!

Birthday of Our Blessed Mother

When was the Mother of God born? We don’t know for certain, of course, but for almost 15 centuries now, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated on Sept. 8th. Those who are quick with maths have already figured out that September 8 is exactly nine months after December 8 – the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

In earlier centuries, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated with greater fanfare. Like the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of the Blessed Mother is important in our salvation history. Christ needed a mother, and Mary’s own conception and birth, therefore are events without which Christ’s own birth would have been impossible.

Let us join in spirit if not in person in those Places and Shrines where our Beloved Mother’s birthday is prepared for with much love and celebrated with great solemnity.

Exaltation of the Cross:

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross or Triumph of the Cross we honor the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world.

Christians "exalt" the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. Adoration of the Cross is, thus, adoration of Jesus Christ, the God Man, who suffered and died on this Roman instrument of torture, for our redemption. The cross represents the One Sacrifice by which Jesus, obedient even unto death, accomplished our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ all in one image.

Placing a crucifix in churches and homes, in classrooms of Catholic schools and in other Catholic institutions, or wearing this image on our persons, is a constant reminder and witness of Christ's ultimate triumph, His victory over sin and death through His suffering and dying on the Cross.

Our Lady of Sorrows: In order to recall and participate in the sorrows and pains of our dear Mother Mary let us spend a short while, meditating on her seven sorrows, namely:

- the prophecy of holy Simeon;
- the flight exile in Egypt;
- the loss of Child Jesus ;
- meeting Jesus carrying his cross ;
- standing at the foot of the Cross;
- lance piercing the side of Jesus;
- the burial of Jesus.

I recommend special prayers for our dear Sr. Putti Viagula Mary on her feast day that she may regain her health.

Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael:

Accepting the existence of the evil one and of hell leads to the understanding that Christian tradition holds that the Archangels have four tasks:

- To fight against Satan.
- To rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy
- To be the champion of God's people
- To bring souls to judgment.

This feast celebrates the three archangels who were sent to men to proclaim wondrous messages and defend mankind against the wickedness of the devil: *Michael*, whose name means 'Who is like God?' which was the war cry of the angels, led by Michael who cast Satan and his followers out of Heaven. He is especially honoured and invoked as a patron and protector by the Church throughout history.

Gabriel primarily appears as a messenger of God in the Old Testament and in the New, to Mary. The name means 'man of God' or 'God has shown himself mighty'.

Raphael means 'God has healed'; this angel has acted as a guide to God's people and healed others. He revealed his identity as "I am the Angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the throne of God."

Let us remind ourselves and the young under our care, that God has been so mindful of us in giving us Angels to guide us on our journey towards Heaven.

Special word of thanks: to our dear Sr.Devaraj Amalia Assunta who co-ordinated the day's program, and a great appreciation and big God Bless to Sr.James Glorina and the Community of Chetpet who had hosted the celebration and to all the other communities, Celebrants, relatives and well wishers who had made the Diamond and the Golden Jubilee celebration a memorable one for our dear Jubilarians, their dear ones and for each one of us who rejoiced with them.

A big thank you from the Diamond and Golden jubilarians who still cherish with much joy and gratitude the celebrations held in their honour and above all for your presence on the occasion.

Thanks also for the prayers offered for the success of the FMA-PCI. It went on very well. Intense work and the interest of each participant will bear abundant fruit. The report of the same will be sent to all the communities. I request all the sisters to read it to know the process and the events; let us commit ourselves personally and own up the decisions and challenges.

Let us ***turn our thoughts to and offer our fervent prayers for*** our dear sisters in ***Sri Lanka Mission*** who are working might and main for the development of the people. I will soon be visiting them along with Sr.Yetukuri Alphonsa Maria and Sr.Devaraj Amalia Assunta. Please accompany us with your powerful prayers.

Kindly ***continue to have all the sick sisters and dear ones*** in your prayers.

Dates to remember in this month

- Course for the New Animators: 11th – 13 Sept. at Kodambakkam. Do remember to bring your Constitutions and the book Plan of formation.
- Economers' Meet: 26th – 28th Sept. at Dharmapuri.
- First Phase of the Second Novitiate – Inter-Provincial level: 20th Nov. – 20th Dec. 2009 at Manikandam, Trichy.
- Project Mornese: 7th Oct. -3rd Nov. 2009 Sr.Maghimai Lourdu Mary, Sr.Malapatti Fatima and Sr.Felix Hilda will participate.

Kindly note the following changes :

- Retreat for the ***House Staff*** will be in ***Mannivakkam*** from the 28th – 29th December 2009.
- ***Annual Retreat for Sisters*** from 27th Dec.2009 – 3rd January 2010 will be arranged at ***Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi***. All the student sisters are expected to participate in the same.

RIIP: How could we easily forget you, dear *Rev. Fr. Benjamin Puthota SDB* for the holy memories you have left behind, after so many years of toil carried out with invincible courage and daring hope as a true Son of Don Bosco. You may be conspicuous for your physical presence but you are honoured and revered for the wonderful legacy that still speaks for you. May you have the joy of soon enjoying the heavenly bliss which the beloved Master has in store for you. *Adieu dear Fr. Benjamin !*

Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Rev.Fr.Swamikannu Stanislaus sdb and all the confreres of the Chennai Province. May dear Fr.Benjamin be a powerful intercessor in obtaining many zealous and holy vocations for the Province.

Dear *Sr. Wilma De Souza* and sisters of INB, we are one with you in the sorrow you experience at the demise of the young sister, *Sr. Sylvia Fernandes* who had participated so valiantly in the paschal mystery of Christ and accompanied with so much love, care and concern towards her heavenly shores. May she continue to live in our midst with her prayers on our behalf.

Dear *Sr. Anandaraj Jeyashanthi* we are deeply grieved at the passing away of your dear father. While we offer you our condolences we pray that the Lord may grant him eternal rest and console you and your dear ones in this hour of pain.

St. Francis de Sales was a Confessor who converts. He sometimes remained there from sunrise until noon, a throng of people around him, young and old, poor and rich, strong and weak, healthy and sick,; if he had any preference it was not for the “fine people in lace” but for the sick, the peasants, the un-educated, the dirty etc.. He often lent his handkerchief to poor penitents weeping from sorrow for their sins. Similarly he would take the arm of a poor cripple and half paralyzed and help him into a comfortable position, then listen to him with incredible patience. **Sacramental confession** was one of the most controversial question with Protestants at that time but for Francis, it was the one for which he was most zealous and pre-occupied.

At this juncture I would recommend the communities to make the best use of the **GREEN AND YELLOW CARDS** distributed lately, for the maximum benefit of our young people and to help them approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with proper dispositions and due preparation. This Sacrament was one of the means that Our Founder St. John Bosco valued for the sanctification of his boys. Let’s be attentive to do the same.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Mary Ann Fernando
Provincial

SEPTEMBER - 2009

PROGRAMME OF THE PROVINCIAL

1	: Erode
2 - 3	: Kodambakkam - Provincial Office
4	: Journey
5	: Madurai
6	: Puliadithammam
7	: Journey
8	: Regunathapuram
9	: Tanjavur
10	: Kodambakkam - Provincial Office
11-13	: Kodambakkam - New Animators Meet
14-18	: Personal Work
19-20	: Provincial Council
21 -26	: Sri Lanka
27	: Journey
28	: Dharmapuri – Economers’ Meet
29 – 30	: Provincial Office

PROGRAMME OF THE ECONOMER

10	: Erode
19-20	: Provincial Council
22	: Therespuram
23	: Regunathapuram
26-28	: Dharmapuri – Economers’ Meet

N.B: Kindly send all the matter for the INM FMA – News letter ‘VIBRATIONS’ to the following e-mail address: inmfmaivib@gmail.com