



Provincial Circular

Salesian Sisters
Mazzarello Convent
Kodambakkam
Chennai -600 024

1st December 2009

Viva Gesu`!

Dearest Sisters!

I wish to start this circular letter with 'Chess'- the game, of which of St. Teresa of Avila speaks. She says: "You may be sure that anyone who cannot set out the pieces in a game of chess will never be able to play well, and, if one does not know how to give check, one will not be able to bring about a checkmate. Now you will reprove me for talking about games, as we do not play them in this house and are forbidden to do so. That will show you what kind of a mother God has given you ... she even knows about vanities like this! However, they say that the game is sometimes legitimate".

"It is the queen which gives the king most trouble in this game and all the other pieces support her. There is no queen who can beat the King as well as **humility**; for humility brought Him down from Heaven into the Virgin's womb and with humility we can draw Him into our souls. Be sure that He will give more humility to him who has it already. I cannot understand how humility exists, or can exist, without love, or love without humility, and it is impossible for these two virtues to exist save where there is great detachment from all created things."

SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION

14th Nov. Provincial Community Day at Thanjavur. My heartfelt thanks to all of you dear Sisters who have put all your efforts to celebrate this golden tradition left by our dear father St. John Bosco, that of celebrating the Gratitude Day at the Provincial level which is indeed a day to bind us together in love in order to effectively carry out the holy mission of saving souls which the only aim of our life. I would like to express my sentiments of gratitude to Sr.Alphonse Yettukuri the Vice Provincial who organized this day, Sr.Devaraj Amalia Assunta who coordinated the programs, all the Provincial Councilors, Members of the Provincial Team, Animators, Sisters, Salesians, Members of the Salesian Family, Teachers, Students, Past Pupils, Cooperators, VIDES Members, Well Wishers, Educating Communities and all the Collaborators for your presence, wishes and blessings. A special thanks to Rev.Fr.Amal Raj Susai sdb, the Provincial of Trichy Province and Rev.Fr.Camillus Fernando sdb, the Rector of Don Bosco Thanjavur, who celebrated the Holy Eucharist and the Aspirants whose presence, proved the ever loving and brotherly support of the Salesians. May we cherish this day's experience and continue to experience this genuine love.

21st - 22nd Nov. Youth Convention held at Auxilium- Thanjavur. It was indeed a wonderful experience to be with nearly 300 vivacious young people, youth coordinators and lively speakers who inspired the groups. The vibrations of this experience must reach all the other youth.

Special thanks to the Youth Pastoral coordinators Sr.Tamizharasi Kanickairaj, Sr.Regina Antony, the members of the youth pastoral commissions - Sr.Sebastian Margaret, Sr.Amborse Jeyaseeli, Sr.Rayappan Selvi and all the sisters who contributed their best as local coordinators for the success of the convention. May the joy experienced in *Thanjavur*, echo in all our campuses.

My special word of **thanks** to dear Sr.Lazar Nirmala and the Sisters of the Community Thanjavur who hosted both these beautiful celebrations! Your availability and the sense of responsibility in reaching out to the minutest details were appreciated. The hidden sacrifices and the hard work you put in will be rewarded a hundredfold. May God bless you dear sisters.

Thank you dear Sr.Soosai Magnificat for preparing the house and hosting the **Animator's Meet on 15th November** and your readiness to prepare for the **first Phase of the National Level Second Novitiate Programme** at Manikandam Trichy. Sincere thanks to Sr. Devaraj Amalia Assuntha for her generous availability to be the facilitator. The program began on 20th November and will end on 20th December 2009. 26 of our young sisters from the various provinces have got together for their days of spiritual renewal and the refilling of themselves with the Holy Spirit - an indispensable condition for a fruitful mission among the young. May the tangible Presence of the Holy Spirit, be your Strength, Comfort and Light!

28th - 30th Nov. The National Level Meet for the 22 Coordinators of the Indian FMA Provinces working in the Areas of Education, Youth Pastoral and Social Communication was held at Kodambakkam, Chennai. **Thanks** to the Community for hosting this great event. It is edifying to see how each one of you in your unique way contributed your mite. All your efforts will not go in vain. May the Lord be gloried in and through you.

La Madre in her Circular 905 highlights the reality that though the education of the young generations has always been a challenge, today it is much more so due to the great cultural changes pertinent to humanity. Convinced educators are needed who aim at quality presence among the young. Don Bosco named this friendly presence as **assistance**. Our Founders accompanied the young according to the spirituality of St. Francis of Sales. This takes up the road of daily holiness with a style that is inspired by sweetness and optimism, attention to the person, promotion of their best potential, sincere affection, honesty, and reciprocal respect. According to her recommendation let us entrust ourselves to Mary Help of Christians like Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello and learn the way of education-accompaniment that renders us capable of generating life and hope, of opening to true love. The great challenge of our Founders was to love and make themselves loved. Let this be ours as well.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

He blazed the trail fearlessly, treading where no missionary had dared to tread before, winning millions of souls to Christ and performing routinely such stupendous miracles to verify - as no other did verify - the prophecy of the Savior: "And greater works than these shall ye do." Of all the valiant messengers of the divine Word who have, during the last few hundred years, proclaimed the good tidings among infidel nations, there is not one whose glory is greater, who has worked greater wonders or who has shown himself a closer imitator of the first apostles than the modern apostle of the Indies, St. Francis Xavier. He labored only ten years in the missions before he was taken to heaven. And what years they were! In so brief a time, this one man, animated by God in a most extraordinary way, won for Christ some three million souls. Shouldn't we allow ourselves to be motivated by this great Saint, a passionate lover to win souls for Christ? "Da mihi animas"!

BLESSED PHILIP RINALDI

The third successor of Don Bosco, Blessed Philip Rinaldi used all his energies in adapting the spirit of Don Bosco to the times. He did much to develop Salesian studies and was a master of Spiritual life. He worked hard to renew the spiritual life of the Salesians, had absolute confidence in God and unlimited trust in Mary our Help. He asked Pius XI to grant the “indulgence for sanctified work”. He took great interest in the missions, sending many young Salesians to learn languages and customs so that Evangelization might be more effective.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary because of her sinless ness could see God and her fellow human beings with utter clarity. She could know by heart the beatings of all human hearts; if we, created in the image of God are human only in as much as we love God and our neighbour, then Mary, who was able to love God and us with her whole heart, because she had been freed from sin, was human in its perfect sense.

What Mary is by **privilege**, we are called to become by **grace**; and what she is by virtue of being the Mother of God, we are called to become aided by the fruits of her Son’s redemption. Let us drive this truth home to the minds of our young people so as to enable them to live in this world a worthy Christian life in spite of all the enticements it offers.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! I wish to greet you dear Sisters a very meaningful Christmas filled with countless blessings in the following words: “Hail, Child Jesus, you are a child of beauty and a joy forever. We see heaven in your manger, in fact something greater than heaven, for heaven itself is your handiwork. You give us the joy of *retrospect* as we remember all your gifts in the past. You give us the joy of *aspect* for there is always some aspect of the present that makes us happy. You give us the joy of *prospect* as we look forward to the future. Your joy is far richer than the wild joys of living. Give us the joy of a peaceful conscience and of a grateful heart: the joy of a teachable mind and of a glowing hope.”

Kindly convey my prayerful Christmas and New Year wishes, to the dear Salesians wherever you are, to your dear family members, all lay collaborators, benefactors and all our dear youngsters!

HOLY FAMILY:

We are living in an era when our attention should be focused on families, the cradle where our educands receive their first formation. A family is a Christian family if Christ is at its centre. Where Christ reigns, love abounds. Husband, wife and children form the world’s greatest team. The Holy family had its sorrows. No family is without its own particular stresses and difficulties in the struggle of life. Raising children these days is hard. To earn enough money to keep up with the cost of living is hard. It now costs more to amuse a child than once it did to educate its father. However, in the midst of all such family trials, a Christian heart can remain serene, if it loves. “The greatest of all is love”!

31ST. DEC. 2009 A DAY TO THANK! Giving thanks to God is not an optional thing for the Christian. Thankfulness to God for His love, His care, and His providence permeates both Old and New Testaments.

It is also a day to say ‘**Sorry to God**’. The Saints really understood what St. Paul meant when he said that strength was made perfect in weakness> (2 Cor. 12:9) They believed that it was in humbly carrying their sins and imperfections in repentance that they were brought closest to the perfection and holiness of God. Repentance was the Saint’s life with God. Through repentance we, too can receive again and again the mercy of God and experience the reality of his presence.

I desire to wish you in anticipation, **A VERY HAPPY AND GLORIOUS NEW YEAR 2010** rich in the manifestation of God’s love, power and graces in the life of each one of us, our dear ones and the young for whom the Lord has chosen us.

- The area of ***Social Development Office*** organises its national level meet at Guwahati from the 1st to the 5th of December, 2009. Sr.Lumin Joseph Priscilla, Sr.John Santha Mary, Sr.Azarias Arockiamary Selvi, Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga and Sr.Sebastiar Caroli will participate in the same. May they have a safe journey and a profitable experience.
- From 12th to 14th December 2009 **National Level Seminar on Budget System** will be conducted at Kodambakkam, Chennai. Warm welcome to all our sisters from different provinces and fruitful stay in Chennai.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT** for Sisters will be held from 27th Dec. 2009 to 3rd January 2010 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. Let’s pray for each other that we may be renewed in the life of the Spirit.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT** for the house- staff will be conducted at Mannivakkam on 28th and 29th of Dec. Do accompany them in their spiritual journey and prepare them for their annual encounter with Jesus.
- Our ***deepest and heartfelt Condolences*** to Provincial Rev.Fr. Stanislaus Swamikannu and all the dear Salesians at the demise of our beloved Fr.Rayappa Maddhichetty sdb . We have no adequate words to express our gratitude for his loving and untiring service to us Salesian sisters through the ministry of the sacrament of reconciliation and for his spiritual accompaniment. We ask the Lord to grant him eternal bliss and reward all his dedicated service to the institute and the church.
- Let us lovingly remember all the ***dear departed*** and offer our suffrages. Specially to the Father of Sr.Michael Arockia Sujatha, Brother of Sr.Pudota Mary Kirubagari, Brother of Sr.Sebastian Philomena S.T and all our dear and near ones who passed away in the last month.
- May the vibration of our prayers reach out to all the ***sick and elderly people*** who have recommended themselves to our prayers. May they feel the healing power of God and be strengthened and recover soon.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The day he received his Episcopal consecration the Bishop’s features “were seen suddenly to radiate light, he seemed to be in an ecstasy, as beautiful as an angel” said Roland. The Saint in confidence told Mother Jane de Chantal; “He felt, in his simplicity, as if the most adorable Trinity was imprinting interiorly in his soul what the Bishops were doing exteriorly in his person; likewise he felt as if the Holy Mother of Our Lord was putting him under her protection and the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, were at his side protecting him”. May we too experience this loving protection now and always.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Mary Ann Fernando

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Provincial

DECEMBER 2009

PROGRAMME OF THE PROVINCIAL

- 1 - 3 : St.Mary's Vellore - Provincial Visit
4 - 6 : Katpadi Auxilium Home - Provincial Visit
7 : Kodambakkam - Provincial Office
8 - 10 : Thanjavur - Provincial Visit
11 : Trichy- Second Novitiate
12-14 : Kodambakkam –National Level Meet- Budget System
15 -17 : Chetpet - Provincial Visit
18-19 : Kodambakkam - Provincial Council
20 : Kodambakkam – Provincial Office
21-22 : Mannivakkam – Provincial Visit
23 : Kodambakkam - Provincial Office
24 - 25 : CHRISTMAS
26 : Kodambakkam - Provincial Office
27-3rd Jan'10 : Katpadi Sacred Heart Home - Annual Retreat I

PROGRAMME OF THE ECONOMER

- 4 : Regunathapuram
5 : Thanjavur
6 : Trichy
7 : Recollection
9 : Chetpet
12-14 : National Level Meet – Budget System
16 : Erode
18-19 : Kodambakkam – Provincial Council
23-29 : Sri Lanka
