



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

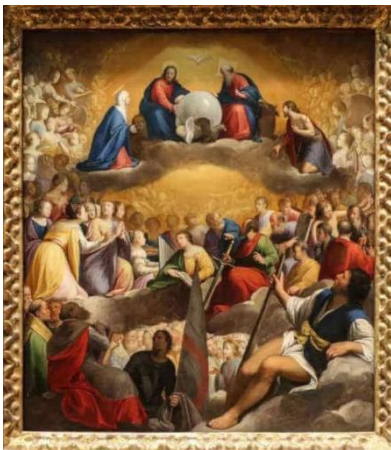
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01.11.2024

My dearest Sisters,

At the very outset, I wish you a very Happy Feast of all the Saints.

Today the Catholic Church celebrates all the saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision that are only known to God. This feast reminds us that we all have this "universal call to holiness." Constantly we have been reminded of this special vocation that God has given us. What then must we do in order to join the company of the Saints in heaven? The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* n.40 says: we "must follow in His footsteps and conform ourselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. We must devote ourselves with all our being to the glory of God and the service of our neighbour. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history"



The feast of All Saints should inspire us with tremendous hope. Among the saints in heaven are some whom we have known. All lived on earth normal lives like our own. They were baptized, marked with the sign of faith and were faithful to Christ's teaching. The teaching of the Beatitudes marks out specifically the happiness of the Saints and while it shows their happiness, it also portrays the road that they have followed. Whenever we celebrate this solemnity, we are often faced with a question "Who is a Saint"? Are Saints a different class? Are they distant from ordinary, simple and worldly people?

Pope Francis speaks about the call to holiness and how it is both a gift from God and a journey to be made together with our brothers and sisters and all the Saints who are companions along the way. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)* he says that the saints are imperfect, humorous and next-door neighbours. In his exhortation he gives some criteria for being a Saint that could also become our guiding principles.

Saints are SERENE- Saints are happy even in bad and inconvenient times (beatitudes). Happiness is within them and it reveals the profound joy and inner peace that come with faith in Christ and in

their faithful following of him. It also reminds us that “holy people are happy people,”. This is an encouragement for each of us too that in our daily strive to holiness, we can find this same happiness just by knowing, loving and serving the Lord better with each passing day.

Saints are SENSITIVE- To be sensitive to people and their needs is the beginning and act of becoming saints. Saints have an ability to reach out, share and be present with the others and one who uses all senses to become aware, sensitive and active of the environment around them. This reminds us of the necessity that we too need to be sensitive and to create the space in which God can work, can heal and can love through us.

Saints are SIMPLE- What all of our Saints have in common is living their faith through daily simple living. They were present to those around them and served them as best they could. It is simplicity in relating to God or the little way towards God that added merits to their holiness. This comes as a reminder to us too that our path to holiness requires just simple steps of authentic daily living doing everything that comes our way with great love.

In our Salesian Charism, Holiness holds a significant element in our spirituality. For Don Bosco: Sanctity consists in being cheerful. He would often say “I want no gloomy Saints”. Mother Mazzarello show us by example that holiness can be attained by being cheerful always. Dominic Savio said “I’d rather laugh with the sinners than the cry with the gloomy Saints”. Our style of holiness in the Salesian Spirit requires just the simple traits of life- joyfulness, constant vigilance and faithful attentiveness to everything that we do or say. May our Saints in Heaven intercede for us that we may walk along this path tread by them so that we can be found worthy by God to be counted one among their company.

All Souls’ Day

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Let us be generous in offering our sacrifices and prayers for all the faithful departed, especially the forgotten souls. Our prayer helps the souls of the deceased who are carrying out the work of their purification.



All the cemeteries during November 2 are very vibrant and colourful. People pray, visit the cemetery, place flowers and light candles at the tomb. In fact, this expression symbolises what a death should be. Let us focus three symbols seen in the cemetery on this day.

CROWD - A sense of community and connectivity. We are part of a single family of death in purgatory (suffering Church), alive on earth (Militant Church) and Saints in Heaven (Triumphant Church). Saints help us in our pilgrimage towards our heavenly home and we help souls through prayers. A matter of family concern.

CROSS- A sense of death “Make us know the shortness of our life” (Ps.89:3) it is time to think of one’s death and life.

CANDLES - A sense of hope and life. Death is not the end. We are the children of the loving God and finally, we will be united to Him.

Let us also remind ourselves of the significance of this day drawing reflection from the dream of Don Bosco 'the Miracle of Chestnuts' which he had on 2nd November 1849.

We can draw the inspiration from the six things that we need to know about this miracle:

1. November 2, 1849, Don Bosco had brought his youth to the cemetery to pray for the death and promise to all a treat once they are back to the oratory (a place to play, to pray and learn), with roasted chestnut (very popular in Piedmont)
2. Mamma Margaret, misunderstood his wish and prepared only a little amount of them for 600 boys.
3. The Miracle – Don Bosco took the little basket of roasted chestnut and distributed to every boy to satiety and there were still chestnut.
4. The Inspiration – A boy who wanted to leave the house of Don Bosco seeing this miracle, stayed on.
5. The Saint – It was the first time people openly said “Don Bosco is a saint”
6. The Tradition – Providing chestnut on November 2 is still a great tradition in the Salesian house.

The memory we make of the departed ones on this day reminds us of the two realities in life: the awareness of the impermanence of our earthly life and at the same time the Hope of a life "beyond" of a permanence of our existential journey that does not dissolve but marks history and remains in the memory of God. The Church invites us to pray for our deceased so that in this communion between a Church that still walks and the other that has already reached the house of the Father, the communion of faith may be perpetuated. Let us live this month as a thanksgiving for each of them for the good they have brought into our lives and let us offer up our prayers and suffrages for them. May it also be a reminder for us to walk on the path of good as the apostle Paul reminds us: “Let us do good while we have the opportunity.”

World Day of the Poor

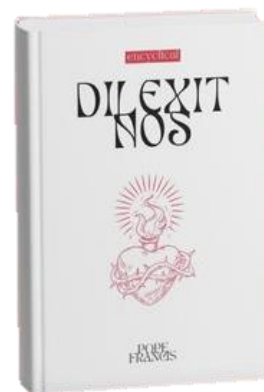
The celebration of the 8th World Day of the poor will be celebrated on 17 November 2024 this year. Pope Francis has invited us to celebrate this day with the theme: "The prayer of the poor rises up to God" (Sirach 21:5). In his message for this World Day of the Poor, the Holy Father reiterates that "*the poor hold a privileged place in God's heart*" and invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust. He also draws attention highlighting the example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who spent her life working for the poor and who described herself as "only a poor sister who prays." He went on to say that for Christ's disciples, "poverty is, above all, a call to follow Jesus in his own poverty," and he asked Catholics to take as their example Saint Francis of Assisi, who kept his gaze fixed on Christ, allowing him to see and serve the poor. Let us celebrate this day with humble



attitude of communion with those who are less privileged and let us share the lot of the poor by our attitude of simplicity, humility, sacrifices and living a life in a way to share in their suffering.

Encyclical Letter “Dilexit nos” (“He Loved Us”)

On 24 October 2024, Pope Francis released his fourth encyclical, titled ‘**Dilexit nos**’ (“He Loved Us”), centred on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the boundless love Christ offers for humanity. The encyclical is being published during the celebrations for the 350th anniversary of the apparition of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, on the eve of the Jubilee and in the final phase of the 2021-2024 Synod. This document arises from the need for a world, amidst wars and imbalances, to recover “what is most important: the heart.” With this encyclical on the Sacred Heart, Pope Francis presents a deeply religious text tinged with traditional, popular devotion. It reflects the paradox of a Pope who embraces the modern world yet draws deeply from tradition. His call to return to the essentials—love, affection, connection—runs counter to today’s values: speed, efficiency, profitability.



“Dilexit nos,” Pope Francis’ fourth Encyclical, retraces the tradition and relevance of thought on “the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ,” calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of mission. He loved us’, Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (Rom 8:39)”: Thus begins Pope Francis’ fourth Encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, Dilexit nos.

The Encyclical is dedicated to the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ: “His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship,” the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. “For ‘He loved us first’ (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, ‘we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us’ (1 Jn 4:16).”

Dear Sisters, I invite all the communities to read this Encyclical with the intention of experiencing the love of Christ at personal level and make all those who come in contact with us experience this same love through us.

COMMUNICATION

Safe Journey and All the best: We wish Sr. Gemima Pohrmen and Sr. Rihunlang Muthoh all the best and safe journey as they will be travelling to Rome on 7 November 2024. Sr. Gemima will attend the Formators Course at Auxilium, Rome while Sr. Rihunlang will participate in the meeting of the Animators of the Aspirantate and Postulancy organized by the Formation Sector, Rome. We wish them God’s blessings and assurance of our prayers for the fruitfulness of their studies and meeting respectively.

Second Novitiate: The first phase of the Second Novitiate this year will be held in the Province of Mumbai and our Sisters will also participate in it. We wish them a fruitful time of encounter and formation as they earnestly prepare themselves for a total self-giving to the Lord. Let us accompany our sisters with our prayers that this important period may enthuse their passion for a radical giving

to Christ. I thank Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, Provincial of Mumbai and the province of INB who will accompany our sisters in this journey during the one-month intense preparation. The sisters will leave on 16 November and will arrive back on 22 December. We wish them a safe journey and an enriching encounter. The sisters who will be part of it are:

1. Sr. Iangjuh Mary Pariah
2. Sr. Klein Matilda
3. Sr. Lawai Daphira
4. Sr. Pyngrope Wanplisha
5. Sr. Ralte Lucy Zoramawii
6. Sr. Ranee Martha
7. Sr. Rongpeit Nanmerry
8. Sr. Suja Evangelica
9. Sr. Suja Kmenlang
10. Sr. Suja Pdianghun
11. Sr. Wahlang Camelia

Media Conference: On 23 and 24 November 2024, there will be a National Catholic Media Conference with the theme “**Illuminate: Nurturing Digital Stewardship**” at St. John’s Medical College, Bangalore. The Seminar is jointly organized by the Dicastery for Communication, Vatican and the Salesian Social Communication Department, Rome. From our Province, Sr. Eugina Laloo (who is also a member of the organizing team), Sr. Stella Mary Pasi, Sr. Aquila Makri and Sr. Sandra Mary Diengdoh will participate in the seminar. We wish them all the best and an enriching experience of the seminar.

Three years Preparation for the 150th Missionary Expedition: As an Institute very soon, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first FMA Missionary Expedition. Mother General has exhorted the whole Institute to prepare for this momentous event in the history of our Institute with a three-year preparation (14 November 1877- 14 November 2027). In her circular No. 1038, she has announced that the Institute will officially begin the preparation on 14 November 2024 with the theme “**It is time to revive the fire!**” May I invite every community of our Province to have a special celebration on this day and keep it as a day of thanksgiving in gratitude to God for the gift of our missionaries who have paved the way for the spread of God’s love and the Charism of the Institute to different parts of the world. Let us also pray that in this significant preparation and celebration, many will give heed to the invitation of the Lord to serve Him in the mission land as missionary ad gentes.

May I remind everyone to also collaborate with love in all the initiatives proposed by the Institute and by FMA India in these years of preparation. Sr. Adaphro Rose Mary, the National Coordinator for Mission Sector of the PCI has also communicated that as FMA India we will journey with the Institute in this preparation by deepening our knowledge of the pioneer FMA missionaries on every 14th of the month. In her letter she stated “*the Mission coordinators of the seven provinces of India intend to deepen as FMA India, our knowledge of the pioneer FMA missionaries on every 14th of the month. This can be shared in our communities during the good night or at any appropriate time we deem convenient. We will also have a collective prayer intention on this day.*”

14 November 2024: Presentation prepared by the Mission Sector Rome on the first departure of the missionaries.

Prayer intention: To thank God for the first missionaries of our Institute and to pray for the missionary intentions of the Institute.

CONDOLENCES

We convey our condolences and prayerful solidarity:

- To all our Sisters who lost their dear ones in this past month.
- To Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Kolkata Province at the demise of Br. Thomas Kuttamplackal SDB on 29 October 2024.
- To Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Panjim Province at the demise of Fr. Lino Lopez SDB on 30 October 2024, and
- To all the departed members and relatives of the Salesian Family.

PRAYER REQUEST

Let us offer our prayers through the intercession of our Blessed Mother:

- For Sr. Marinella Hinge, Sr. Sylvestra Khonglah, Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw
- For all the sick members in our families and of the Salesian Family.

Let us intensify our prayers through the powerful intercession of Mother Rosetta Marchese particularly for Sr. Marinella and our sick Sisters. May the Divine Healer bless and heal all the sick and ailing.

LITURGICAL AND SALESIAN FEASTS OF THE MONTH	
1 November	All Souls' Day
2 November	All Saints' Day
13 November	St. Artemide Zatti
14 November	Opening of the First Missionary Expedition/ Children's Day
15 November	Blessed Magdalene Morano
17 November	World Day of the poor
24 November	Solemnity of Christ the King
25 November	Blessed Mamma Margaret

I conclude this circular wishing you all a fruitful month of November in the company of all our departed ones and let us also join in communion with the intentions of our Holy Father for the month of November in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

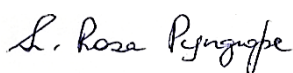
Theme: FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD

Pope Francis invites the universal Church to pray that all parents who mourn the death of a son or daughter may find support in the community and obtain from the comforting Spirit the peace of heart.

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves".

-Pope Francis

Yours affectionately in our Blessed Mother,



Sr. Rosa Pyngrope
Provincial