



Cir/LP/21/06/2023

JUNE 2023

Dearest and loving Sisters,

We have already stepped into a beautiful **month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**. Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of love and this image of Jesus is loved and venerated in the church and in the families from ancient times. The heart is the source of love. There are many biblical texts which reveal God's love for humanity which is the precious treasure of God's heart. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". (Jn 3:16) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and so not rely on your own understanding (Prov.3:5). "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Mt 6:21), which reveals the importance of loving God and knowing that God is the greatest treasure every person can possess. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to the Heart of God. It is not a peripheral devotion, but it is to honour and love God, which is the heart of our faith and is centred on the heart of Jesus as the emblem of Divine love. At the centre of this feast is the heart of Jesus, full of love for the world. St. Paul tells us: "Love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5)

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated by the entire church and this year we celebrate on 16 June 2023. This feast began on August 31, 1670, in Rennes, France through the efforts of Fr. Jean Eudes. Later on, on December 27, 1673, with the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a great apostle of the Sacred Heart this devotion became universal. In 1956, Pius extended this feast to the Universal Church. Through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Jesus invites us to offer sacrifices in reparation for the offences inflicted on his Sacred Heart by receiving Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, by an hour of vigil every Thursday night in memory of Jesus' agony in Gethsemane; and by celebrating the feast of the Sacred Heart every year.



Pope Pius XII, in his Encyclical, *Haurietis Aquas* says: "It is altogether impossible to enumerate the heavenly gifts which devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has passed out on the souls of the faithful, purifying them, offering them heavenly strength, rousing them to the attainment of all virtues." The Lord is always watching over us with his mercy, compassion and divine love. Therefore, let us approach this throne of mercy, from which salvation for all humanity gushed

forth. "You have to learn from the heart of Jesus. That is why Jesus said: Learn of me' - not from books". (St. Teresa of Kolkata) The solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an invitation for us to learn from Jesus who is meek and lowly in heart, to become like Him, his disciples.

The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On 17 June 2023, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which follows the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It commemorates the joys and sorrows of Mary, the mother of God, her love for God and her Divine Son Jesus. The devotion to the heart of Mary was instituted for the universal church by Pope Pius XII in 1944 after the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The root of this devotion to the heart of Mary could be found in the scripture where we hear: 'Mary treasured all these things in her heart' (Lk 2:51). Therefore, this feast invites us to have a contemplative heart for God and a compassionate heart for others. So, the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary calls us to love Jesus more and more and to grow in intimacy with our Lord Jesus. May Mary, help us to grow in our relationship with Jesus so that in turn we may become humble and merciful with our brothers and sisters.



COMMUNICATIONS

Blessings and Gratitude: Our best wishes and prayers to Sr. Margaret Devadoss and Sr. Majella Fernando who have assumed the responsibility as the Provincials of Chennai Province (INM) and Trichy Province (INT) on 25 and 26 May 2023 respectively. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to our dear Sr. Nirmala Lazar and Sr. Margaret Mary Amalanathan for their monumental contribution offered these past years as Provincials and PCI presidents, especially during the FMA-India centenary celebrations. May the Lord bless and reward them copiously and may they continue to be a blessing to many more as you take up the new responsibility the Lord has entrusted to them.

Courses & Seminars: As per the provincial calendar, there will be a special course based on Gospels, animated by Rev. Fr. Remesh Cherian SDB, from 19 - 23 July 2023, at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum for all the sisters professed in 2010 to 2023. All are expected to reach on 19 July by 12 noon and can leave on 23 July after 4 pm.

Boun Voyage: Sr. Maria Pettayil and Sr. Rejina Joseph will be leaving for Rome on 12 June 2023. The former will be rendering her service and the latter will be doing the Formation Course at Auxilium, Rome. We wish them God's blessings and the support of our prayers.

Congratulations on the good result: I applaud the principals, sisters, staff and students of all our schools in the province for their outstanding performance in the Secondary and Higher Secondary Examinations. May the Lord be praised for he has done great things through us. Let us continue to do our very best for the young people entrusted to our care.



Sincere Gratitude

- ✓ Thanks to Sr. Rosina Thekumkattil and the community of Jaigaon and Sr. Mary Ekka and the community of Jumaikela for preparing the novena for the solemnity of St. Mary Mazzarello and Mary Help of Christians respectively.
- ✓ A word of appreciation to Most Rev. Felix Toppo, the Archbishop of Ranchi for presiding over the Holy Eucharist and blessing our six sisters on 24 May 2023 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi and to Fr. Jose Mathew SDB for preparing our sisters by preaching the retreat.
- ✓ I would also like to acknowledge with thankfulness all the arrangements made by Sr. Lily D' Souza, Sr. Innocencia Jojo and the communities of Ranchi towards the retreat and the first profession of our sisters.
- ✓ We thank Sr. Nirmala Tigga and the community Auxilium, Kurseong for hosting the retreat for our 37 sisters and we are also grateful to Fr. James Chacko SDB for animating the sisters to stop, reflect and embark on a new journey for better fruitfulness and sanctification of one own life and mission
- ✓ Thanks to Sr. Clara Saminathan, the Education Coordinator of the Province for organizing a two-day meeting for the sisters to become more effective in the field of education.

Let us pray for our dear departed – Condolences to:

- † Sr. Minimol Chettayil at the passing away of her maternal aunt Mrs. Mary Kannanthanam (90) on 04 May 2023 and her paternal grandmother Mrs. Mary (94) on 09 May 2023.
- † Sr. Kanta Tirkey at the demise of her cousin sister's husband Mr Clement Tirkey on 07 May 2023
- † Sr. Mary Sarkar at the departure of her brother-in-law Mr Ivan Henderson to his eternal abode on 12 May 2023
- † Sr. Valsa at the passing away of her maternal aunt Mrs Mary Kurian (79) on 23 May 2023.
- † Sr. Philo Chirammal at the departure of her cousin sister Mrs Liza Joseph (50) to her heavenly home 01 June 2023

† Sr. Suzan Maria Louis at the demise of her maternal uncle Mr Mahimaidass (55) on 04 June 2023.

Dear Sisters,

As I conclude the letter, I invite all of you to enter the Heart of Jesus to learn from Him the virtue of humility which is not mixed with self-seeking and purity of intention in all that we do so that Jesus can say: "My daughter, you are dear to me, I am pleased with what you are doing". (I will never forget you - Letter No.65) Let us learn from Mother Mazzarello to place all our worries in the Heart of Jesus, and there we will find solace and comfort also to enclose everyone who is dear to us and our apostolic mission in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Wish you all a very Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary!

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

