



Cir/LP/28/02/2024

04 February 2024

Dearest and loving Sisters,

Greetings to all of you from the Provincial House, Dum Dum!

The Presentation of the Lord in the temple

The month of February starts with an important event for us consecrated persons, the Church commemorates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It marks the day when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, exactly 40 days after his birth. This occasion holds significant religious importance, particularly in connection with the consecrated life. The feast marks the presentation of the infant Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem, as well as the purification of the Virgin Mary. We too are called to purify ourselves from all that is worldly and embrace a new norm of life in the Lord. This purification takes place in our life during the period of our formation. One key aspect of the celebration involves the blessings of candles, as a symbol for Jesus being the light that enlightens the world. This also representing spiritual illumination and guidance that Christ brings into the lives of the baptised persons, and much more in the life of us consecrated people. This feast helps us to renew our commitment to a life of dedication to God and the service of others. It is a solemn occasion where we as a community come together to strengthen our spiritual bonds and rekindle our sense and purposes of living together. This Feast reminds, of our call to holiness and the on-going journey of self-surrender in consecrated life and rekindling of the spiritual flame that initially led us all to embrace this unique vocation of following Christ and give our life for Him in our daily life.



Authentic Consecration to The Lord

The life of Bl. Eusebia Palomino was an authentic consecration to the Lord. Born in Cantalpino, Spain on December 15, 1899. Eusebia's childhood was poor but happy, illuminated by the great faith of her parents. The whole family alternated work and prayer in an atmosphere of mutual love and charity towards everyone. In her early life Eusebia had work as a maid for families in her area. Eusebia inherited a lively interest in the basic ideas of the Catechism from her father, who was so devout, and her family's faith was well known to the priest, so she was able to

receive her First Holy Communion at the age of nine. When she received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time, Eusebia experienced something wonderful in her heart. The spark of an intense love for Jesus was lighted in her heart and she found great joy in meeting Him in Communion. This love helped her to overcome every difficulty and to go beyond the tender love she had for her family to consecrate her life totally to God as a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians in 1924.



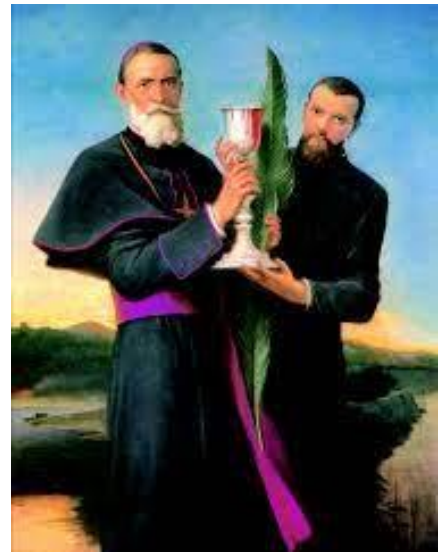
Sr. Eusebia was sent to the house of Valverde del Camino because of her knowledge from life as a maid, she took charge of the kitchen and various other community responsibilities, giving her service in amiable and joyful availability. In the Sunday Oratory, a place for the local children to play, pray and learn about their faith, she followed the younger children with apostolic efficacy. However, she often found herself surrounded by the older ones and even the adults, who were attracted by her spirit of prayer and by her convincing faith. Her deep desire was to “make prayer resound in every home” so that every person might honour the Lord’s Passion. Through her numerous letters, she became an untiring promoter of devotion to the Wounds of Jesus, in order to obtain mercy for all sinners. In 1931, on the eve of the revolution, Sr. Eusebia offered herself to God as a victim for the salvation of her brothers and sisters in Spain and throughout the world. For three years she bore indescribable sufferings in a joyful crescendo of longing for Heaven, which opened its doors to her on February 10, 1935. As we remember her we too can imitate her spirit of offering our little suffering for the war torn countries as well as our own country.

Consecrated for Ever

Sts. Louis Versiglia and Callistus Caravario: True Salesians to the End

Bishop Louis Versiglia was a true pastor, completely dedicated to his flock. He gave the Vicariate a solid structure with its own seminary, house of formation, and planned residences and hospitals for the elderly and those in need. He looked after the formation of catechists with much care. In his notes, he wrote: “The missionary who is not united to God is a canal detached from its source.” “The missionary who prays a lot achieves a lot.” Like Don Bosco, he was an example of work and temperance. Callistus was sent to Macao, and then for two years to Timor where he edified everyone, including the rector, for his goodness and apostolic zeal. “My good mother,” he wrote, “pray that your Callistus may not be just a half priest, but completely a priest.” On May 18, 1929, Callistus returned to Shiuchow, where Bishop Versiglia ordained him a priest and entrusted him with the mission at Linchow. In a short time, he had visited all the families and earned the sympathy of the school children. Meanwhile, in China, the political

situation had become very tense, especially for Christians and foreign missionaries, as persecutions began. On February 13, 1930, Fr. Caravario was in Shiuchow to accompany Bishop Versiglia on his pastoral visit to the Linchow mission. Some young boys and girls went with them; they had been studying in Shiuchow. On February 25, a group of Bolshevik pirates stopped the bishop's boat, wanting to take the girls. Bishop Versiglia and Fr. Callistus stopped them. They were taken by force and ultimately shot, but before they were killed they heard one another's confessions. Their last breath was spent for their beloved China. Dear sisters, these two Martyrs will teach us numerous ways to won the souls even to risk one's own life in safe guarding the lives of those young girls. Pope Paul VI declared them martyrs in 1976. St. John Paul II declared them Blessed in 1983 and canonized them on October 1, 2000.



Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent

We begin our season of Lent, preparing our hearts by recognizing our brokenness and need for conversion, a turning of our hearts to God, is a great time to begin a renewed commitment to prayer.

*“Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.”
“Repent, turn away from your sin, and believe in the Gospel.”*

The ashes symbolize our mortality. They are a physical reminder that our bodies will decay, but our souls will live on in eternal life. The cross of ashes means that we are making a commitment – that we are undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence, of dying to ourselves. It also describes our human condition: it says that we are broken and need repair; that we are sinners and need redemption. Most importantly, it tells us that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to carry our crosses. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. During this period, we are invited to repent and mourn for our sins. This is a call from the Cross to focus our attention to the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy. A time to invest in front of the Lord, especially by repent and make penance for the many sins of ours and our fellow human beings.



Communications

Gratitude and Appreciation!

- ✚ The first phase of the Second Novitiate was held at Holy Child Auxilium, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, from 15 November - 15 December 2023. 13 sisters from four Provinces of INM, INK, INT, and INC participated in this spiritual itinerary. We are grateful to Sr. Rosalia Tirkey, the facilitator of the program for accompanying and guiding the sisters throughout their journey. We are greatly indebted Sr. Rosy Veliyan, the animator and the sisters of the community of Vasant Vihar for offering them and the resource persons warm hospitality and a conducive atmosphere to have a fruitful experience.
- ✚ We are indebted to several persons who were part of the catechetical seminar that was held at Auxilium, Bandel on 01-02 January 2024 on "Know, Grow and Share the Good News". Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel for organizing a two-day Catechetical seminar and also for conducting the session on the Papal documents, Rev. Fr. Kumudo Kuriakose Digal SDB, the resource person on the first day who dwelt with the topics: (1) the tasks of catechesis (2) sources of catechesis, (3) challenges of Catechesis and (4) Catechesis through social media, Sr. Shradhan Kispotta for having directed the session on the various Catechetical Directories of the Church and the practical way of teaching catechism, Sr. Shanti Tirkey for having shared on Youth Catechesis and Sr Jenita Savarimuthu for enlightening with the topics 'School and Sunday parish Catechesis' and qualities of a good catechist which helped the participants to reawaken zeal and love for catechesis.
- ✚ We are obliged to Sr. Rose Ezarath and the community of Auxilium, Bandel for holding the Catechetical seminar on 01- 02 January 2024 and the Annual retreat from 03 - 10 January 2024 with the theme "With unique God Experience, Towards Prophetic Religious life" led by Rev. Fr. Austin Joy MSFS. 50 Sisters from various communities of the province took an active part with the spirit of refreshing, rejuvenating and renewing themselves to encounter Christ to live a consecrated life.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr. Gracy Parekattil and the community of Thecho for the Novena preparation in honour of St. John Bosco
- ✚ Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the community of Auxilium, Dum Dum for hosting the Annual Team meet from 10 -13 January 2024.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- ✚ Sr Delpina Bag at the passing away of her paternal grandfather Mr.Suchoron Bag (97) on 10 January 2024.
- ✚ Sr Nilam Kindo at the demise of her cousin brother Mr. Anand Kindo (46) on 09 January 2024.

- † Sr. Deepa Minj at the departure of her grandmother Mrs. Luisa Toppo (95) on 10 January 2024 to her eternal abode.
- † Sr. Anima Minj at the departure of her paternal uncle Mr. Vincent (66) on 15 January 2024 to his heavenly home.
- † Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the sisters of Bangalore province at the demise of Sr. Helen Netto FMA on 17 January 2024.
- † Sr. Margaret Devadoss and the sisters of Chennai province at the passing away of Sr Sagaya Selvi Periyannayagam, FMA (56) on Friday 19 January 2024 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi.

Dear Sisters, I conclude with the tone of the Consecrated Life led by our Saints Bishop Versiglia and Fr. Caravario and Bl. Eusebia, who are a beacon light for all of us as we journey through this season of Lent. The daily challenges that come on our way are the little crosses that we can carry it for the glory of God and for His Kingdom. Let us take up all our inconveniences cheerfully and willingly to alleviate the sufferings of our needy brothers and sisters

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial