



XXXI/10

01 March 2024

**My dearest Sisters,
Loving & Prayerful Greetings from Provincial House, Bangalore!**

Once again, we are here for our monthly appointment through this letter. The Animators and a group of Sisters have just returned from the rich spiritual experience of the Retreat. Together with the Provincial Team members, we evaluated the journey of the past year and planned to continue the journey with greater commitment and generosity. We have just celebrated the Feast of our Provincial Community Day with the theme “burning hearts and journeying feet,” taking us to the month of March, which will offer us the most solemn and Sacred Week of the Liturgical year. It will take us to a time of intense spiritual renewal in us, in the Community, and in the Local Church, offering us a good opportunity for the intensification of prayer and penance, opening hearts to the docile welcoming of the divine will.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE GREATNESS OF ST. JOSEPH



St. Joseph's life as a carpenter in Nazareth is veiled in a profound silence, much like the enigmatic aura that surrounds him. Although the Gospels primarily recount his actions, these deeds, cloaked in quiet, hint at a profound contemplative nature. His daily interactions with the divine mystery dwelling within his home illuminate his inner being. This intimate connection with the divine mystery is highlighted by figures like St. Teresa of Jesus, who advocated for the renewed veneration of St. Joseph in Western Christianity. St. Teresa reminds us why St. Joseph is such a great intercessor. “To other saints, Our Lord seems to have given power to succour us in some special necessity,” she wrote, “but to this glorious saint (I know by my experience), he has given the power to help us in all things. Our Lord would have us understand that, as he was subject to Joseph on earth, St. Joseph, bearing the title of his father and being his guardian, could command him, so now Our Lord in heaven grants all his petitions.”

The depth of Joseph's interior life is the key to understanding his complete surrender to the mission of preparing for the Messiah's arrival in his household. From this rich inner world, he derived the strength and wisdom needed to make significant decisions, such as relinquishing his freedom to serve divine purposes and sacrificing his marital happiness for a virginal love beyond comprehension. His profound devotion to God enabled him to embrace the responsibilities and burdens of family life with unparalleled dedication. This profound submission to divine will, exemplified by Joseph's unwavering commitment to all that serves God, is a manifestation of religious devotion. It transcends mere duty, embodying a profound willingness to offer oneself entirely to the divine purpose. Joseph's life becomes a testament to

the virtue of religion, wherein devotion becomes synonymous with a readiness to surrender one's will to the service of God.

Compared to the numerous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there are relatively few approved private revelations of St. Joseph. But there are some. One of those approved appearances of St. Joseph occurred in Cotignac, France, on June 7, 1660. On an extremely hot summer day, the humble shepherd, Gaspard Ricard, was parched with thirst. His flask of water was dry, and he was nowhere near a stream or body of water. Ricard sat down on the grass in agony. At that point, an older man suddenly appeared to him and said, "I am Joseph. Lift it, and you will drink." Joseph was pointing to a large boulder nearby, a rock that Ricard knew he couldn't lift by himself. Yet he tried, and somehow he was able to lift the boulder with ease. Underneath, it was a fresh spring of water. Overjoyed, Ricard looked up to thank the mysterious stranger, but he had already vanished. Ricard rushed to the village to tell everyone about the miraculous spring. Soon enough, the spring became associated with countless miracles, both physical and spiritual, and a shrine was built at the location. The spring of St. Joseph in Cotignac has been a pilgrimage site ever since.

Let's attune our hearts to the whispers of God, much like Joseph did in the quietude of his own soul. As we prepare ourselves to honor the feast of St. Joseph, let's embrace his remarkable example of wholeheartedly surrendering to the divine will with unwavering faith and trust, just as he did.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



As we approach International Women's Day on March 8, 2024, we're elated to highlight the upcoming celebration dedicated to recognising the remarkable achievements and contributions of women worldwide. This year's theme, "COUNT HER IN: INVEST IN WOMEN. ACCELERATE PROGRESS," aligns perfectly with our dedication to promoting gender equality and empowerment. The theme mirrors the priorities set forth by the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women, with a focus on creating pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls globally.

Together, let's empower women and girls, who are our valued recipients of support and hope. Together, we can champion their rights, cultivate their talents, and create a world where every woman and girl can thrive and contribute to our collective progress.



07	SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY
08	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
19	ST. JOSEPH
24	PALM SUNDAY
28	HOLY THURSDAY
29	GOOD FRIDAY
31	EASTER SUNDAY



PCI MEETING 2024

The PCI 2024 Conference is scheduled to take place at **Auxilium Provincial House in Guwahati** from **April 2nd to April 3rd, 2024**. This year's theme is "**Ecological Consciousness for Ecological Justice.**" Representing our province, Sr. Alice Chacko and Sr. Rosy Lopez will serve as the Province Delegate and the Delegate nominated by the Provincial Council, respectively. Let us join together in prayer for the fruitful and successful outcome of this upcoming meeting.

WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE

The Vicar General Sr. María del Rosario García Ribas of our Institute has communicated that the World Feast of Gratitude 2024 will be celebrated in Mozambique on April 26 and will be animated by **Mozambican Province "St. John Bosco"**.

In response to the Chapter Deliberation, in the context of Integral Ecology, the celebration of the World Feast of Gratitude is intended to be a hymn of praise. The theme proposed to us is illuminated by the Words of the Psalmist: "O Lord, our God, you have given man power over the work of your hands" (cf. Psalm 8): "**With Mary, guided by the dream, we generate peace by taking care of our common Home.**"

The **logo** of the Feast encloses a profound message through significant elements which offer us a beautiful symbology:

Mary, a prototype of taking care that embraces the world as our common home;

The different **faces of young people** from the five continents express our educational mission given to Johnny Bosco in his **dream** at nine years old;

The baobab, a sacred tree, symbolising life, is a powerful symbol of Africa that seems to unite heaven and earth and that provides people with nourishment and remedies to various ailments;

The colours of the **flag** of Mozambique represent the country's riches, its history, and its commitment to peace.

It is a charismatic tradition, a significant moment in the family of our Institute, a symbol of love and **trustworthiness that we celebrate in an environment of prayer and joy, to express the gratitude and love that unite us to our Mother General as the centre of communion of our Institute. Let us offer her the gift of our prayers** along with our creative fidelity to our life of consecration and mission.

The other details of the programme for preparation will be sent to you later.



PROFESSIONS

The second novitiate of our sisters, Sr. Sumathi Bulla and Sr. Nisha Francis, is scheduled from April 6th to May 3rd, 2024, at the Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore Provincial House. The culmination of this period will be the final profession on May 13th, 2024. Our novices, Sr. Haseena Kalkolla and Sr. Namsila D. Sangma, will be making their First profession in the INB Province. The solemn ceremony is scheduled to take place in Nashik, on the 24th of May 2024.

VOCATION CAMP

I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their dedication and hard work in promoting vocations throughout this academic year, both as individuals and within our communities. I'd like to specifically acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our Regional Coordinators: Sr. Josemary Dunna for the AP & TS region, Sr. Ashalatha Pushparaj for the Karnataka region, and Sr. Rosely Devassy for the Kerala region. Their efforts, along with those of the other sisters overseeing vocation initiatives in our communities, have been instrumental in organizing and planning vocation camps. Let's join together in prayer for the success of these camps and encourage our community members to invite young women they know to participate.

Kerala : April 07 - 11 in Palluruthy

Karnataka: April 06 - 11 in Hassan

AP & TS : April 06 - 08 in Guntur

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these communities for all the arrangements made and for their generous availability to welcome the young people to the community.




Intensive training programme

An intensive 5-day training program in Alternative Therapies is scheduled from February 26th to March 1st, 2024, at Auxilium Convent Kurseong, Darjeeling. Representing our province, Sr. Lisy C.D. will be attending the program.

WISHES AND PRAYERS

Best wishes and prayers to all our students who are appearing for Class X and XII as well as our sisters who are appearing & preparing for their public examinations.

VOICE OF GRATITUDE

-  We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Jerry VM SDB, of the IND province, for leading the retreat for our sisters from February 9th to 16th, 2023. It was truly an enriching experience, as we delved deeper into the Word of God through the insightful "Tapping method," fostering spiritual growth and holiness.
-  Heartfelt gratitude to all the sisters of the province for their incredible efforts in making the provincial community day on February 18th, 2024, such a memorable event. It truly felt like a family reunion, with a beautiful liturgy, thoughtful gifts, and delicious snacks shared by all the communities. Special appreciation goes to Sr. Annie Thoppil for her dedicated leadership and hard work in orchestrating this simple yet meaningful celebration.
-  I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Sr. Sherly Joseph and the community for their warm hospitality towards the 2nd Batch of Annual retreatants and Team members from February 17th to

18th. I also extend my sincere thanks to Sr. Sheela Jacob for efficiently coordinating the days of the annual evaluation and planning.

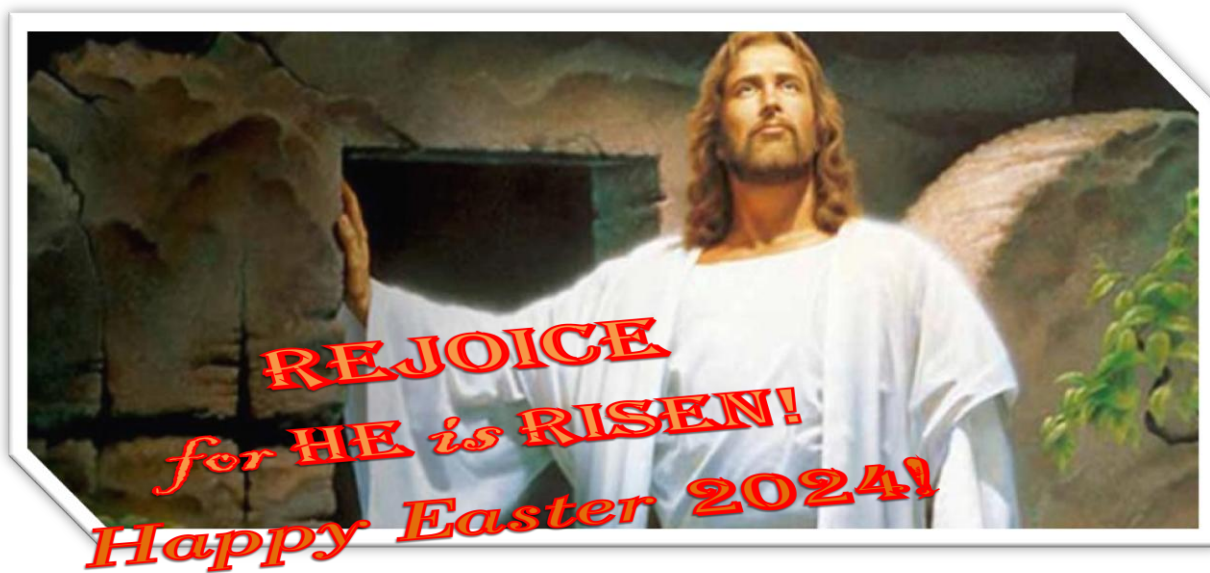
REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ✚ Let us pray for the speedy recovery of the sister of Sr. Saritha Joseph who is seriously ill.
- ✚ Let us keep in our prayers the father of Sr. Jyothsna who is not well.
- ✚ Let us also pray for the speedy recovery of the mother of our Sr. Annamma Joseph.

CONDOLENCES AND ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To dear Sr. Amala Priya Arul Vanan, at the sudden loss of her maternal Uncle Mr. Susai Raj Babu (56) on 04February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Clara Rayalu at the loss of her cousin Mrs. Rita (64) on 06February 2024.
- ✚ The Provincial and Confreres of INK at the demise of Rev. Fr. George Cheruvalli SDB (59) on 7 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Shanta Kumari Madugula at the demise of her paternal grandmother on 07 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Mary Antonyat the passing away of her sister-in-law Mrs. Mary Philo Pandaraparambil(62) on 14 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr.Sherly Joseph at the loss of her paternal uncle Mr. Mathew K. (82) on 16 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Rosa E. J. at the demise of her dear Father Mr. Joseph E.V. (90) on 19 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Shiny Karakkat at the sudden passing away of her uncle Mr. Devasia Adackamundackal, on 19 February and of her Paternal Grandmother Mrs. Thresiamma Chacko (96) on 23 February 2024.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Jyothsna Mattupally at the demise of her dear Maternal Uncle Mr. Ganjimala Thomas (60) on 20 February 2024.

CONCLUSION



Dear Sisters, in the closing days of March, we stand on the threshold of Easter—a celebration of new beginnings. As Easter dawns upon us, we rejoice in the triumph of life over death, symbolized by Jesus' resurrection. Through this divine victory, humanity is offered a path to transcendence - a life united with the divine, free from the shackles of sin and mortality. The Easter liturgy, echoing the Genesis narrative, reminds us of God's creative power manifested in the genesis of light. This primordial act underscores the essential role of light in creation—a beacon of truth, love, and goodness. In the radiant glow of Easter, darkness is dispelled, and evil's hold is shattered. The Paschal Candle, aglow with sacrificial fire, illuminates our journey, echoing Christ's selfless sacrifice. Like a flame, Christ's presence warms and transforms, offering renewal and hope to a world in need. Let us, therefore, bask in the brilliance of Christ's resurrection, embracing the light of truth and love. May we become bearers of this divine radiance, illuminating the world with compassion and grace! In this season of renewal, let us pray for the light of Christ to burn brightly within us, guiding our steps and illuminating our hearts. (cf. LG 1).

As we guide the children through their final examinations amidst the weariness of a year's toil and the escalating intensity of the season, let us remember that we walk not alone but in the company of Mary and Joseph, who too bore life's burdens with grace. Let us dwell frequently upon the arduous journey of the Holy Family and, above all, the profound suffering and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, drawing inspiration to emulate His path and offer our own sacrifices for the peace and harmony of our world. Let us raise our voices to the Almighty for our nation and its future leaders, praying for their clarity of vision and the courage to govern with justice, compassion, and integrity. May their decisions be guided by righteousness, benefiting all citizens. May they bring hope in times of despair, promoting unity and understanding among diverse communities; grant them wisdom to tackle the root causes of conflict and the humility to seek counsel from all sectors of society.

Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Lucy Rose".

Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil
Provincial