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“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Mt. 13 /45, 46).

Dear loving Provincial Superiors, Regional Superiors, Local Superiors, Loving Mothers, Sisters & Beloved Children in formation,

I hope you all are keeping fine. I believe the Jubilee of the stigmata experience of our Father St. Francis was celebrated suitably, and you all have received deep experiences of the spirit of this feast. As usual, we are preparing to celebrate the feast of our Seraphic Father which falls on 4 October. As the merchant seeking after the good diamonds, St. Francis found Jesus the most Precious Diamond, sold all his possessions, and made Jesus his own. Soon after his encounter with the Master at the valley of Spoleto, St. Francis started to sell all his possessions - worldliness, material things, Parents, desire for name and fame, and so onyes, giving up all that matters of this world, Francis was making ‘this Diamond’ his own. We know that the constant conversion in St. Francis led him to the union with Christ Crucified. Without delay, he gave up all the materialistic attitudes and material things and thus entered into a life of *Interior Poverty*. As the root of *Interior Poverty* is humility, Francis built up his spirituality on this same foundation. He wanted his order to be built upon this strong foundation, and so, he desired it to be called ‘the Order of Friars Minor.’

All his biographers highlighted the absolute vigilance of our Father in the observance of this virtue which highly elevated him before God. He understood that it is foolishness to take vain glory in the recognition and appraisal given by the world. Hence, he rejoiced in humiliation and became distressed in praise. He was more interested in being criticized than being praised. St. Francis was fully aware that the power of criticism renews our life, and the power of praise degrades our life (cf. 2 Cel.140 & LM VI.1).

Dear sisters, let us wholeheartedly return to the practice of interior poverty? Like skillful architects, our Founding Mothers, and the Servant of God Puthenparambil Thommachan who had been the inspiration and textbook for our Founding Mothers, were able to build up their spiritual mansions based on interior poverty which was taught by our Father St. Francis. We commemorate the death

anniversary of Puthenparambil Thommachan on 1 November. This Servant of God remained silent, before all wrong accusations without blaming anyone and even when he had to undertake the punishment of excommunication, he clearly followed the humility and minority of St. Francis. As we commemorate his death anniversary, with love, I exhort all my sisters to read at least one of his biographies.

In these days of preparation for the feast of St. Francis, let us all make a profound decision to practice interior poverty, i.e., self-emptying in our personal life, and gradually strive to make it our way of life. We have to pay much to be silent when we face wrong accusations. As our father who always had been seeking humiliation, let us also train ourselves to accept with serenity the pain of misunderstandings and the feeling of being not understood by others. We pray daily for the grace to ‘understand rather than to be understood’. If there is any pain of being not understood in our life, let us prepare ourselves to accept it as a ‘holy wound’ from our Lord. This feast celebration invites us to enjoy the taste of the ‘Cross’ little by little. Praying for the grace to celebrate the feast of St. Francis more meaningfully, I extend to you all the joys and greetings of this feast.

The month of October, which is filled with devotion to the Queen of the Rosary, is a special occasion to receive showers of blessings upon each of us and for the whole world. Let us plead earnestly to our loving Mother so that peace may be established in the world. All of us are well aware of the perilous war in Western Asia between Israel and its neighbouring countries and in Europe between Russia and Ukraine. To our beloved Mother, the Queen of India, let us pray that evangelization in India be made possible and that the people of Manipur will be reunited in peace and tranquility. With the intention of evangelization in our country, a Catholic Association prepared itself to offer ‘Jericho Prayer’ in entire India. They have asked our intercessory prayers. Each sister in India has to offer one Rosary towards this intention and sisters in other countries are to pray for the evangelization of the respective countries, and offer one Rosary. Let’s keep in our hearts all the countries wherever FCC is present and pray for those people to have the grace, to know and accept Jesus Christ as the Saviour. May the Queen of Rosary help us to go forward in holiness and faithfulness!

The month of October begins with the feast of St. Therese of Child Jesus. The Little Flower of Jesus became a saint through the little ways of love. Let us seek her intercession to have a touch in the deep ocean of the love of God. I know that, on this day you will pray for Sr. Princy, the General Councillor, and for myself. In advance, dear sisters, I thank you for your sincere prayers. Prayerful feast day wishes to all those who are named after St. Little Flower.

October 5, the feast of St. Faustina! Dear sisters of Faustina group, I pray that, as our patron saint, we may be filled with the grace to draw souls to our Lord's mercy. Prayerful Festal Greetings to all of you! Festal Greetings to Sr. Josiya, the General Councillor who celebrates her feast on 15 October - the feast of St. Therese of Avila. 12 October 2024 denotes the 16 anniversary of our elder sister St. Alphonsa's canonization. Let us thank God for all the blessings that He bestows upon FCC and continue to seek her intercession to grow in holiness.

November 1, celebrate as All Saints' Day, is a day to seek the intercession of our brothers and sisters in heaven, and November 2 is a day to pray for the souls in purgatory. Let us observe the whole month in prayer remembering all the departed ones from our families, communities and all those who died unexpectedly due to natural calamities.

Vestition & First Profession

Congratulations to the second-year novices who will be making their Vestition & First Profession in October and November! The details are given below. As we thank the Good Lord who blessed FCC with 58 young buds, let us pray for each one of them that they may live this life in faithfulness and holiness which is received as a gift from the Lord.

Sl. No.	Province	No. of Novices	Date	Time
1	Devamatha Province (CHY)	1	Oct.02	09.30 am
2	San Thom Province (ELRU)	1	Oct.03	10.30 am
3	Assissi Province (TSR)	6	Oct.05	02.00 pm
4	St. Clare Province (IMPL)	1	Oct.07	10.30 am
5	Alphonsa Province (PALA)	2	Oct.10	10.00 am
6	Nirmala Province (VJDA)	3	Oct.10	10.00 am
7	Sacred Heart Province (EKM)	3	Oct.12	02.30 pm
8	St.Thomas Province (KPLY)	3	Oct.12	10.30 am
9	Alvernia Province (IJK)	5	Oct.12	10.30 am
10	St. Paul Province - Tanzania (DLH)	6	Oct.12	09.30 am
11	St. Clare Province (IMPL)	7	Oct.12	10.00 am
12	St. Francis Province (JLDR)	4	Oct.12	10.30 am
13	San Francisco Province (BRLY)	1	Oct.12	10.00 am
14	Maria Rani Province (RAJ)	2	Oct.12	10.30 am
15	St. Mary's Province (MTDY)	1	Oct.17	10.30 am
16	San Joe Province (TKLY)	2	Oct.19	09.00 am
17	Nirmal Jyothi Province (DMPR)	2	Oct.19	10.00 am

18	Seraphic Province (PKD)	1	Oct.26	10.30 am
19	Alphonsa Province - Meghalaya (PALA)	4	Oct.26	10.00 am
20	St. Paul Province (DLH)	2	Oct.26	10.30 am
21	Nirmal Rani Province (IDK)	1	Nov.02	10.00 am

I extend my sincere gratitude to Sr. Archana (VJDA), Sr. Johncy (IMPL), Sr. Lisy Joseph (TMY), and Sr. Sherin (CHY) for their invaluable assistance to the novices in their preparatory endeavors and the animations of their 30 - day retreat.

Pre -Postulancy Phase - I

On September 17, 2024 our 163 young aspiring buds entered Pre-Postulancy Phase I. (Kerala – 30, North Indian Mission – 106, Kenya – 11, Tanzania – 8, Uganda – 3, Rwanda – 1, Malawi – 1, Kongo – 1 and PNG - 2). FCC congratulates them all for their courageous steps. May the Holy Spirit hold your hands and illuminate your ways.

Provincial Election Synaxis

As we know, November 2024 is very significant for entire FCC. Being led by the Holy Spirit, we prayerfully try to find out the sisters whom God has chosen to lead FCC family for the next three years. Though all of you are well aware of the necessity of prayer, yet I remind you with love. All the FCC sisters, especially the synaxis members must have a strong determination/conviction that our synaxis and elections are to be conducted strictly under the sole control of the Holy Spirit. FCC Way of Life No 218, paragraph - 2, clearly states, ‘It is strictly forbidden by the Canon law to canvass for votes publicly or in secret either for oneself or for others. The members of the synaxis have an obligation to observe absolute secrecy in the decisions of the synaxis, which have to be kept secret. From the inauguration of the synaxis until the results are declared, the members of the synaxis cannot have any contact with those outside the synaxis directly or through telephone.’

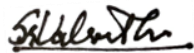
Let’s take this law seriously and don’t approach the election in a way that the individuals and the Province may lose the Grace. If we approach it with human calculations, discussions, indications and instructions, they are all against the law of election. *Tapas* retreat, prayer with fasting, retreat before the synaxis etc. are meant to sanctify the synaxis members and the entire FCC. I, lovingly exhort all the synaxis members to become the instruments of the Holy Spirit, through self-

sanctification with much hope and love. Besides, all the members are to be prepared well by studying everything that is given in our Constitution and FCC Way of Life regarding the election, and also the decisions taken by General Synaxis - November 2021. To elect the members to the General Synaxis which is to be held in February 2025, we have to follow the method given in the 'Decisions of General Synaxis 2021, page – 64'. Let us all seek the intercession of our beloved Mother Mary, our Father St. Francis, Mother St. Clare, our elder sisters St. Alphonsa, Bl. Rani Maria and our founders that our synaxis may become graceful.

On the shore of Eternity

Sr. Grace Mary (PALA, 01.09.2024), Sr. Silvia Kavithazhe (CHY, 05.09.2024), Sr. Hilaria (KLM, 10.09.2024), Sr. Seetha Maria (BHM, 13.09.2024) and Sr. Alice Njaralakkattu (TLY, 28.09.2024).

Your humble servant in Jesus Christ



Sr. Litty

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(Kindly make this letter available in all our Houses
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