



LPS/02/24

21st April, 2024

Prot. No.94/24

My dear loving Sisters,

In the wake of the blessed season of Easter, a season of resurrection and renewed hope, we find ourselves at a significant juncture, both globally and in our beloved nation, India. The world today is in dire need of the hope that Easter brings a beacon of light in times of uncertainty.

In India, we stand on the precipice of a crucial event - the Lok Sabha elections which have already commenced. This is a decisive time for us, as citizens, as the choices we make as FCC consecrated persons – not only in our responsibility as voters but more than that as mediators and intercessors before the *throne of Mercy*, will shape the future of our country.

Easter, a symbol of rebirth and redemption, inspires us to hope for a better tomorrow. As we cast our votes in the Loksabha elections, let's carry the spirit of Easter with us. Let's make choices that align with the teachings of Christ - love, compassion, and righteousness.

May this month and the next one be testaments to the power of hope – hoping and trusting in an all powerful, all knowing, all loving God of ours, who works wonders for his children, when we cry out to him. Let's pray for wisdom and discernment as we participate in the elections, and may the outcomes contribute to a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous India.

Today's Liturgy invites us to celebrate the Shepherding love of God in Jesus. All of us, without exception – starting from the Senior most Sisters to the Junior most ones, are called to become good Shepherds of the sheep entrusted to our care, in the model of JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD. By virtue of our Christian Vocation and more especially of our religious vocation, we have been commissioned to become caretakers. God is inviting each one of us through today's liturgy, to ask ourselves a very vital question – ***Am I truly a good Shepherd, after the example of Jesus or am I a hireling, who is paid to work?***

Dear Sisters, as I have been going around making Visitations in all our communities for the last one year, I was consoled and happy to find on the one hand, communities which are thriving in sisterly love and care for one another and those entrusted to them. These sisters are convinced of their role as Good Shepherds. ***Congratulations dear Sisters for all the good service that you render in the communities and in your apostolic fields!*** On the other hand, I was also saddened to observe a few of our sisters, who act like hirelings and not as Good Shepherds.



If you really wish to check and know **what you are – a shepherd or a hireling**, you can have a self- examination and try to answer the following practical questions:-

1. As a local Superior, as a formator, as an institution head, as a doctor, as a Nurse, as a Tutor, as a Social Worker, as a hostel warden, as a tailoring School In- Charge, as a parish Sister, as a catechism teacher, as a subject teacher, as a class teacher and as a Vice Principal and so on, do I really take care of my sheep?

2. Am I partial in my dealings with my sheep – favoring one over the other in the community as well as in my ministry?
3. Do I really care for the sick and the wounded with tenderness and love?
4. Jesus says, “I know my sheep and my own know me”(Jn.10:14). Do you as a Shepherd care enough to know about your sheep?
5. Jesus the Good Shepherd leads his sheep to green pastures to satiate our hunger, and to fresh waters to quench our thirst (both physical and spiritual).” ***He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters***”(Ps.23:3). Am I like Jesus ? Do I have His caring nature towards my sheep?
 - a. Do I give healthy food to my sheep? (Sisters in the community/ Formees/ hostel girls and so on). *When I am a hireling and not a Shepherd*, then I will be worried only about filling my stomach and my purse. I have seen concrete examples of this in some of our communities and hostels. When the major Superiors visit, good food is served, places are kept neat and clean and beautiful, otherwise it is altogether a different story. This does not mean everyday must be a feast day.
 - b. Shepherds must care very much for the spiritual needs of the sheep too, providing them with the spiritual food regularly. It is also observed that in some communities, the shepherds do not bother to provide the spiritual food for the sheep – regular confessions and participation in other spiritual activities.

Reasonably healthy food must be provided to the Formees as well as to the hostlers. In some places, it is seen that the shepherds, accumulate the money that should have been used to provide proper food to the sisters, formees and also hostlers and show wrong bills and accounts in that place or not being accountable at all for the money spent.

In this connection, the Provincial Council has decided that the following should be included in the diet of the Sisters, Formees as well as hostlers everywhere, because as young girls and adults, they need to grow up and become healthy, also physically.

- The FCC food style should be simple as well as healthy (but not luxurious), fulfilling reasonably, the dietary requirements.
- **Sisters in every community should have in their diet –**
 - Once a week fish and meat, Egg at least four times a week or more.
 - One vegetable and pulse (dal).
 - 4’o clock Tea with snacks in all communities, especially wherever, there are Juniors, young Seniors, and sick sisters.
- **Formees should be given :-**
 - Four days a week egg, once a week fish and meat.
 - Monday, Wednesday& Friday – three times rice with a vegetable or pulses.
 - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday - Rice for lunch and supper with vegetable/ pulses/egg / meat. These days anything other than rice could be given for breakfast.
 - Some snacks to be given daily with 4’o clock tea.
- **Hostlers should be given:-**
 - Once a week eggs, twice a month meat.
 - Two days a week - breakfast could be of puffed rice murhi) or beaten rice (churha) with chana/ mutter curry.
 - Discourage the hostlers to buy and eat junk food, instead educate them about their harmful effect. Collect the money, they would have otherwise spend on junk food and then with that amount, give them something more nutritious.
 - The shepherds in- charge of the hostlers should be vigilant in arranging Annual Retreats and monthly confessions for them.

Important Information

1. Congratulations and Prayerful best Wishes to our next batch of Golden and Silver Jubilaréans !

Golden Jubilaréans : Sr. Silvy Maria & Sr. Daisy Maria (02.05.1975)

Silver Jubilaréans : Srs. Mukti, Agnes, Amala, Anila, Ranitta and Shefi. (29.04.2000)

2. **Reminder :** Local Superiors and institution heads must ensure that No Work is done in the farm or in the construction sites on Sunday, even if the workers profess a different faith than ours.
3. **Voting:** Dear Sisters, wherever you may be at present, I request all of you, as far as it is in your capacity, to go to the place, where your name is entered in the Voters' list and exercise your franchise. However, if your name is already in the place where you are at present, do not cancel it as an excuse to go to your old place to vote, wasting time, money and energy – which is also part of the vow of poverty.
4. **Prayer:** Let us on a war footing, take up the weapon of prayer and do the following as our Mother general has recommended for the success of the upcoming Loksabha elections:-
 - a. One hour Adoration from 8.30 – 9.30 p.m for nine days prior to the election in your constituency. (Include one mercy Rosary and one Rosary).
 - b. Chain Rosary on **23rd April** and **21st May** in our Province as given below:-

TIMING	April 23 rd & May 21 st
08.00a.m – 04.00pm	Assisi Bhawan, Hazaribag
04.00 p.m – 12.00a.m	Sanjeevan Niwas, Khondhar
12.00a.m – 06.00a.m	St. Francis Novitiate

Note:

- The Local Superiors of all the communities that are not mentioned above, are to choose for your community any suitable timing on both the days (23.04.24 & 21.05.24) and allot the time for each sister to offer a complete Rosary (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries). The chain Rosary should be said in every community at a stretch for a number of hours corresponding to the number of sisters in the community.
- You can also include the Christian Hostel girls, residential staff and also close by catholic families to join this chain Rosary, after explaining to them its purpose and the importance. This chain rosary should be recited only for the intention of just and fare election process to be held in our country, so that the right leaders may be voted to power, who would be promoting peace , prosperity and religious harmony.
- **Audit Dates**

Koderma Zone	-	25 th April to 2 nd May
Jasidih Zone	-	3 rd May – 12 th May
Bagdogra Zone	-	3 rd May – 9 th May
Hazaribag Zone	-	12 th June – 24 th June
- **Documents to be taken to your Zonal centre for Auditing**
 1. Cash Book with Narration
 2. Ledger Book with Narration
 3. Trial Balance two copies (Print the Trial balance in detailed format ie; Trial balance + F1+F12)
 4. Balance Sheet of 2022 – 2023
 5. Clear copy of Bank Statement (01-04-2023 – 31-03.2024)

6. Fee Receipt of the Hostel Fee

7. FD details with Interest Certificate & TDS Certificate

- ✚ We extend our heartfelt **condolences** to **Srs. Betsy and Ushus**, who lost their beloved Fathers, both of them have been ill and bedridden for quite some time.
- ✚ **The Juniors' Program and the Summer Courses** that was scheduled to take place from 16th May, 2024, will remain suspended for the month of May, due to the Lok Sabha Elections. However, Juniors who are able to reach safely by 16th should try to reach here that day itself .
- ✚ **The retreat** will take place as scheduled i.e; from 2nd June to 7th June. The Superiors are requested to send the names of the Sisters who will be attending this retreat from your community, **to Sr. Shobhita** by **25th of this month**.
- ✚ Hope all of you are ready for the **Word of God Exam** for this month.
- ✚ There are **two formats** send along with this circular. Kindly fill them up and send back by the end of this month.

Urgent Reminder

The last date for you to reach the **Trial balance** and the **Budget** of the Communities, Hostels and Institutions was 15th April. It is disheartening to say that even after a week, only 10- 11 communities out of 40 communities have submitted them so far. Dear Sisters, unless and until you submit the Budget and Trial balance, Sr. Jessina cannot submit the Province' Trial balance and Budget to the Generalate on time. And once again our Province will have a bad reputation in the Congregation, because undue delay due to the lethargy and lack of seriousness of few of our Sisters.

The Communities and Institutions which have not sent the Trial Balance& Budget, must send them here by 22nd April.

Congratulations to the Sisters who took the trouble to respond on time!!

S.L NO	BUDGET SUBMITTED	TRIAL BALANCE SUBMITTED
1.	Purnapani Community & Health Centre	Purnapani Community & Health Centre
2.	Thakurgunj	Thakurgunj
3.	Bagdogra Nursury School (Community not given)	St. Francis Hospital(Community not given)
4.	St. Francis Hospital(Community not given)	Assisi Bhawan, Koderma
5.	Assisi Bhawan, Koderma	St. Thomas Bhawan, Bhagalpur
6.	Jeevodaya Community & Destitute Home	St. Mary's Convent, Parsa
7.	St. Thomas Bhawan, Bhagalpur	Alphonsa Niwas, Salgaposh
8.	St. Mary's Convent, Parsa	Assisi Bhawan,Kandore.
9.	Alphonsa Niwas, Salgaposh	Jyothi Niwas, Kundupani
10.	Assisi Bhawan,Kandore.	Alphonsa Bhawan, Ranchi
11.	Jyothi Niwas, Kundupani	Alphonsa Bhawan, Mahuadanr.

Yours lovingly in Jesus,

