



FRANCISCAN CLARIST CONGREGATION
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Peace & Joy*



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“One of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water” (Jn 19: 34).

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

The heart warming month of June has arrived, inviting us to respond with our hearts to the One who revealed His love by laying down His life and became the perfect revelation of the Father’s love by opening His Heart to us. Let the observance of this month inspire and help us to meditate on the love of the Sacred Heart, participate wholeheartedly in the Holy Eucharist, the self-sacrificing sacrifice and receive Him in our hearts and strive earnestly to become one with His heart. Let us, as children, take up the lament of our father, St. Francis, who mourned that *Love is not loved*. “You could hardly find anyone ready to die even for someone upright; though it is possible that, for a really good person, someone might undertake to die. So it is proof of God’s own love for us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners” (Rom 5: 7-8). The cry of St. Francis invites us to self - examine whether His self - emptying and self – giving for us, and the worth of salvation and abundance of life has touched the essence of our spiritual life. Are we able to give due response to this love? All of us have received God’s touch in some way or another in our life’s journey. That touch was really an invitation to come into union with Him. How willing are we to respond to this invitation of Love?

We have professed publically in our Temporary and Perpetual Professions to love Him by giving our own lives to the One who loved us by sacrificing His life. Am I able to live this decision without any fail? Only when we undertake the pain

of living each vow that demands of me can I experience the freedom and joy of our consecration. This month of Sacred Heart invites us to enjoy this sweetness of the **life of consecration**. Let us pay attention even to the little things and respond to His love giving the adequate price. This will strengthen our fraternal relationship, bring joy to our community life, foster our personal maturity. Above all, it will transform us and our lives into a constant living sacrifice to our Lord. Praying for the grace for each FCC sister to make her own this experience, let me wish you all the greetings of the **Feast of Sacred Heart**.

Portiuncula had witnessed the event of 98 junior sisters making their perpetual profession in FCC on 23 May 2024. The ceremony was very graceful and everything went on well. May I thank you all for your valuable prayers. Let us continue to pray for them so that they may deepen in their commitments and grow in sanctity. Let me thank sincerely all the Mistresses, Portiuncula Community and General Animators who strived hard to prepare them for the perpetual profession. May the good Lord reward you for all the endeavours!

The decisions of the General Plenary Council held from 29 to 31 May 2024 are attached herewith. The main decision is about the *General Plenary Synaxis* that is to be held in February 2025. The Synod of the Universal Church held in October 2023, exhorted to implement Synodality in all realms of the Church (meetings, discussions and decisions etc). We, FCC also is trying to respond to this exhortation, beginning from the local communities to the zonal, then to the province and finally to the General level - *General Plenary Synaxis*. Let us begin this journey prayerfully. Awareness about the process will be given through online platform. The names of Provincial Councilors and sisters who are entrusted to give the local – zonal level training and the centre are to reach the Generalate before 12 June 2024.

As all the students and the teachers have entered the new academic year, I pray for all the teacher sisters so that God may strengthen and guide them to bring up the children entrusted to them in wisdom and sanctity and to form them as blessings to the Church and the nation. I congratulate all the teachers and school-management who prepared children with full dedication and achieved the best results. On behalf of FCC family, I also congratulate all student-sisters who attained good results and bagged with ranks by their sincere hard work and prayer.

As the feast of St. Germaine falls on 15 June, may I wish the greetings and prayers of the day to all the sisters who celebrate their Patron's Day. Filled with the love of God, may you be angels of mercy wherever you are, after the model of your patroness.

Transfer

Sr. Hilda Maria FCC from Thrissur province, who served as the Assistant Secretary to the Superior General, and Sr. Shalini FCC from Bhopal Province, who worked as the Mistress in our Common Juniorate Shanthi Dham, Indore are going back to their provinces after finishing their praiseworthy services. Both Sr. Hilda Maria and Sr. Shalini were blessings to the whole FCC Family. Let me thank you sincerely on behalf of FCC and promise our prayers for your valuable selfless services in FCC and for the charity you have shared in FCC. May our Lord, the Good Shepherd, be with you in your new pastures!

May God bless and strengthen Sr. Anjaly (VJDA) and Sr. Sayujya (BPL), the newly appointed Mistresses of Shanti Dham, Indore and Sr. Josna Therese (CHY), the Assistant Secretary to do their entrusted duties. Best Wishes!

Formation

On 3 June 2024, 67 junior sisters (60 FCC sisters and 7 from other religious congregations) entered the common Juniorate at Portiuncula. 60 junior sisters (42 FCC sisters and 18 from other religious congregations) will enter the common Juniorate in Indore on 15 June 2024. Let us pray that they may benefit the best from the coming year which is given to them to love and follow Christ more deeply, ardently and faithfully. All the best to the sisters in the Common Juniorate!

I remember all the 70 candidates who entered the Pre-Postulancy Phase II on 1 June, responding to the special call of God and all the sisters who are in-charge of their formation. May you be able to fix your eyes on the One who called you, to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to enjoy the beauty and joy of the true religious life!

Sakalya Course 2024-25 is already opened on 6 June 2024. I pray that may this year, meant for the spiritual renewal, turn out to be the Blessed Year in your lives.

With Gratitude

The thirty three days retreat of Silver Jubilarians in Thiroor and Karukadom and the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee were occasions of God's blessings. The Silver Jubilarians from Mission Provinces are making their retreat in Anthonianum Convent, Konnakkuzhy. Heartfelt thanks to all the animators, the provincial teams of Thrissur, Kothamangalam and Irinjalakuda and the superiors and communities of Thiroor, Karukadom and Konnakkuzhy, who toiled much to conduct the retreats and celebrations fruitfully. May God reward you abundantly for all the services and sacrifices you made for the betterment of our sisters.

The Three-Year Report

The reports of all the Departments from 1 December 2021 to 30 September 2024 are to be reached in the Generalate before 15 October 2024 as per the format given from the Generalate.

Year of Prayer

Observance of the 'Twenty Four Hours for the Lord,' as asked by Pope Francis, is to be arranged in all our houses collaborating with the Parish, conducting prayer, adoration, and giving opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, counselling etc.

Thirty Three Days Retreat

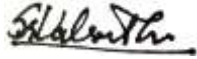
As the number of sisters for the retreat in Thiroor Zion Renewal Center is less, those who have given their names for Retreat in Thiroor from 19 July 2024 to 23 August 2024 also are to participate in Laverna, Karukadom.

Obituary

Let us pray for the departed souls of Sr. John Mary (TLY 04.05.2024), Sr. Vivina (PKD 04.05.2024), Sr. Petrisa (EKM 07.05.2024), Sr. Boniface (CHY 11.05.2024), Sr. Lisieux (IJK 15.05.2024), Sr. Franco (EKM 18.05.2024), Sr. Rose (NDA 19.05.2024), Sr. Wini Jose (IJK 19.05.2024), Sr. Damian (IMPL

26.05.2024), Sr. Immaculate (EKM 29.05.2024) and Sr. Maria Rani (VJDA 30.05.2024).

Your humble servant in Jesus Christ,



Sr. Litty FCC
Superior General
Portiuncula



(Kindly make this letter available in all our houses)
(For private circulation only)

Decisions of the General Plenary Council (29-30 May 2024)

1. General Synaxis

The decision of the General Plenary Council of the year 2021 (February 11) to conduct the Renewal Session soon after the Election Synaxis is changed: the General Election Synaxis and the Renewal Session of the General Synaxis will be conducted separately.

2. General Plenary Synaxis 2025

General Plenary Synaxis will be from **1st to 10th February 2025**. As Pope Francis exhorts we decided to follow the **Synodal Method** for the preparation for the General Plenary Synaxis. Beginning from Community - Zonal - Province - General level. A **questionnaire** will be given to all the members to facilitate this method. The facilitators will be trained from each province. The dates and details of the training are as follows:

- Zion Retreat Centre Thiroor (5pm, 2 July 2024 – 8am, 5 July)
- Laverna Study Centre, Karukadom (5pm, 5 July, 2024 – 8am, 8 July)
- Thamarassery Provincial House (5pm, 9 July, 2024– 8am, 12 July)
- Bhopal Provincial House, (5pm, 19 July 2024 – 5pm, 21 July)

The training for facilitators in abroad will be given online.

Before beginning the Synodal Journey at local level, an orientation class will be given to the entire Congregation regarding the execution of this method. Observe one day prayer in all the communities as a preparation for it.

The Synodal Journey at the community level begins by the middle of July and finally, the province level report of the Synodal Journey has to reach the Generalate before 10th September 2024.

3. Safe Environment Committee

A committee was formed as part of the *Safe Guarding Policy for the Protection of the Minors and the Vulnerable Adults* based on Pope Francis' *Motu Proprio* "You

are the Light of the World” (2023). The duty of preparing the policy was entrusted with the following committee members.

Newly Appointed Committee Members:

- Sr.Jyothis – General Councilor
- Sr.Shefy Davis- Convenor & Advocate (EKM)
- Sr.Geo Maria- Educator (CHY)
- Sr.Maria Tresa- Canonist (CHY)
- Sr.Anitha Jose- Psychiatrist (EKM)
- Sr.Rani Jose – Social Worker (KLM)
- Sr.Amritha- Social Worker & Advocate (BPL)
- Sr.Therese Porathur- Educator (NDA)

4. 2025 Jubilee Year of *Kristu Jayanthi* and the Preparatory Year of 8th Centenary of the death of St. Francis, 2026

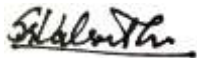
The General Council was entrusted to reflect and decide how to celebrate Kristu Jayanthi Jubilee 2025 and the 8th Centenary of the death of St. Francis 2026.

5. Formation

- It is decided to have combined formation for Pre-Postulancy Phase II in the mission centres from June 2025. Hence, this year onwards, the one month course for the Pre-Postulancy Phase I (*Open to the Spirit, page 111*) will not be there.
- The evaluation programme suggested in *Open to the Spirit (Page 110, No.8)* will not be conducted. Instead, emphasize is given to FCC Way of Life no. 171, Superior General personally or through her councillors visit the formation houses once a year, give the formees necessary encouragement and see that the decisions of the formation committee have been executed.
- We have to make arrangements for spiritual direction by our sisters to our young senior sisters. The Provincial Council can provide a list of sisters who can be the spiritual directresses and the sisters are free to choose one among them.

- Those who have completed the 12 – 15 years of religious life are to be given renewal program in the General Level.
 - Sisters celebrating Golden Jubilee, have to attend 2 months prayer in the Generalate.
 - Sisters celebrating Silver Jubilee who couldn't attend the jubilee course with their batch have to attend it within two years with other batches.
 - As the preparation of training the second line leaders an online leadership course will be arranged from Generalate December 2024 – January 2025.
 - All the new local superiors should attend 33 days retreat at the earliest possible.
 - The Mess Fee for the Common Juniorate in Aluva and Indore is raised to Rs.5000/-
6. The contribution to the Generalate from the Provinces (2%) will remain the same.
 7. The revision of the FCC Directory and rearrangement of the Archives are to be done without much delay.

Your humble servant in Jesus Christ,



Sr. Litty FCC
Superior General
Portiuncula

