



FRANCISCAN CLARIST CONGREGATION

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Peace & Joy



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My dear loving Sisters,

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (I Pet 2: 24)

We entered into the lenten season, chewing the inspiring words of our beloved Superior General. We are now nearing the end of this holy Season of Lent. A time God



has granted us to repent, to return and to re-embark on our journey towards perfect love. We will soon be entering into the Holy Week, which captures for us the essence of the mystery of Jesus' incarnation – the final days of his earthly ministry, his crucifixion, and triumphant resurrection. It is a time of deep reflection, spiritual renewal and unwavering devotion to the Son of God whose supreme sacrifice on the cross brought us salvation.

During Holy week, we retrace Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, we then gather in solemn remembrance of the last supper, where Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion, demonstrating his sacrificial love for humanity. As we journey through the Holy week, let us try to enter into the profound mystery of Jesus' passion and death. Let us contemplate his agony in the garden of Gethsemane, his betrayal by Judas Iscariot, and his unjust trial before Pilate. Let us stand at the foot of the cross, witnessing the ultimate sacrifice of love as Jesus willingly lays down his life for our redemption. Let us immerse ourselves fully in the events of the Holy week, setting aside time for prayer, fasting and contemplation, seeking a deeper understanding of God's boundless love and mercy. As true FCC daughters, let us sincerely recommit ourselves to live our consecrated life worthy of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus made on our behalf, following in the footsteps of our crucified and risen Lord.

May the coming days of lent, especially the Holy week be for all of us a time of spiritual renewal and transformation, as we journey together towards the joy of Easter morning. It is a journey of hope and anticipation, culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday – the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through his triumph over death, Jesus offers us the promise of new life and the assurance of eternal salvation, which is very significant for all of us in the given political and religious context of our country and the world. May the joy of Easter fill your heart and renew your spirit.

In this season of rebirth, let us remember those who are suffering, let us remember our sisters and our aged parents and relatives who are sick , admitted in hospitals and bed ridden . Let us also remember those who are putting their lives at risk to guarantee essential services to our society, especially in the war torn areas of the world, in regions like Israel and Palestine, may the resurrection of Christ inspire a resurrection of peace and dialogue.

May the everlasting love of the Risen Christ, evident in His wounds, be a refuge for all who experience trials in body or spirit. May we all find the grace of hope that does not disappoint.

May the hope that does not disappoint be your guiding light in times of darkness. The Risen Christ is the bridge to life, the passage from death to life, sin to grace, fear to confidence.

May the resurrection of Jesus bring hope to those who are suffering. In the midst of conflict especially for the persecuted Christians around the world, particularly in our country, may the courage of Christ on the cross give us and our brothers and sisters strength. May the promise of Easter bring everyone comfort and fortitude.

In the face of the ongoing situation in Manipur and the challenges posed by the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), may the spirit of Easter foster unity and mutual respect among all. As the entire country is anxiously looking forward to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, let the risen Lord fill us with courage and the spirit of right discernment for our countrymen to stand for truth, speak for truth and to choose the right.



Yes dear Sisters, Easter is a time of renewal, a time to remember that even in the darkest hours, there is always a dawn. As we celebrate the resurrection, let us also ignite our commitment to love, peace, and justice. May the Risen Christ's message of love and sacrifice guide us all in these trying times. Let

us remember that every end is a new beginning, and every trial, an opportunity for growth.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL . ALLELUIA !

THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION AND OUR RESPONSE

Ours is an ancient civilization with a rich cultural heritage of unity in diversity. Indians cherish the values of religious harmony, non-violence and peace which are enshrined in the Constitution. However, the following facts indicates the reality of our country today:-

- Economic development in our country seems to have benefitted only a small percentage. The rate of unemployment has vastly increased. **Large-scale migration** has caused untold misery to many. So also, scientific and technological development has not yet reached the majority of our people especially in the rural areas.
- We feel that development is often done to the **detriment of ecology**, disrupting the life especially of our tribal brothers and sisters, many of whom are being dispossessed of their lands.

- We have also witnessed in anguish the sufferings of the fisher folk in the coastal areas and the long-drawn out struggle of the farmers.
- Divisive attitudes, hate speeches and fundamentalist movements are eroding the pluralistic, secular ethos which has always characterized our country and it's Constitution.
- **Attacks on Christians continue to increase** in different parts of India. Destruction of homes and churches, harassment of personnel serving in orphanages, hostels, educational and healthcare institutions on false allegations of conversion have become common.
- **Prolonged violence in Manipur** resulting in the huge loss of life and livelihood.
- There is a widespread perception that the important **democratic institutions of our country are weakening**, the federal structure is under stress and the media are not fulfilling their role as the fourth pillar of democracy.
- There is an **unprecedented religious polarization** which is harming the cherished social harmony in our country and endangering democracy itself.

Dear Sisters, we are currently in a very crucial period in History. If we fail this time, we fail the Constitution, Country and Citizens. Let us be responsible citizens of our country and prepare ourselves prayerfully, collaboratively and in partnership and work

dedicatedly. Where ever your name is entered in the Voters' list, please go there to cast your votes. Encourage your staff and coworkers also to exercise their franchise.

What Should be our Response?

1. As Christians, our first response is PRAYER, "for with God all things are possible" (Matthew: 19:26). Let us therefore in response to the CBCI's directive, observe **22nd March 2024, as a day of Prayer & Fasting** for peace and harmony in our country. Wherever it is possible like Provincial House, Formation Houses and Lokai Prayer House, we can have *adoration of the Blessed sacrament from 8.00 A.M – 4.00 P.M.* Each hour, let us *say the prayer given on the last page* for the success of the elections.
2. As Rev. Mother Litty our Superior General has recommended, let us come together in prayer and lift our hearts and minds to God. She has proposed the following:-
 - a. Mercy Rosary at 8.45 pm (from 19 March to 19 April 2024)
 - b. 1 hr. Adoration from 8.30 to 9.30 pm (include one Mercy Rosary and one Rosary - 9 days prior to the election of your constituency/ state).
 - c. 24 hr. Chain Rosary (from 10 April to 04 June 2024), below each Province is assigned specific dates for the Chain Rosary.

As our Mother General has advised us, let's stand united in prayer, seeking peace, wisdom and divine guidance during this very crucial time.

1. **Election Synaxis :-** As you have already come to know from Mother General's circular, The Provincial election Synaxis will be held between 15 to 30 November 2024. Accordingly, the study list for electing the members for the Provincial Synaxis will be sent to you soon.
2. **Word of God :-** Jesus answered them, **"You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God.(Mt.22.29).** Dear Sisters, in order that, all of us in the Province to grow in the power of the Word of God, let us once again put our whole heart and mind to study the Word of God and let it become flesh in our lives. To achieve this, every community is asked to follow the following monthly study program. Every month, a particular book in the Bible will be studied by the community and at the end of the month, there will be a self assessment of your achievements. The members will gather together at the end of every month for one hour, and write the Bible verses you have learnt by heart. The first three persons who write correctly with reference, maximum number of Bible verses within an hour , from that particular Book of the Bible assigned for the month, should be given some small prize by the Superior. I am giving below the program of

Study of the Word of God till December – 2024. **Province level Exam will be held on Sunday, 27th October, 2024.** This will be for writing the maximum number of Bible verses from the books of the Bible you have studied till then. (You can write in English or Hindi) The first three winners will be awarded prizes at the beginning of the Election Synaxis.

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|------|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| i. | April | - | St. Mathew |
| ii. | May | - | St. Mark |
| iii. | June | - | St. Luke |
| iv. | July | - | St. John |
| v. | August | - | Acts |
| vi. | September | - | Romans |
| vii. | October | - | 1 st Corinthians |

27th October - Written test of Bible verses [St. Mathew – 1 Corinthians.(7 books)]

3. **Prayerful best wishes to:-**

- i. Three of our Juniors ; Sr. Ankita Lakra, Sr.Anjali Minj and Sr. Reya Jojo, who will be making their **Final Profession on 23rd May, 2024.** Kindly keep them in your valuable prayers.
- ii. To eight of our Juniors ; Srs. Anjelina Tirkey, Anupa Kiro, Alice.K, Alisa Murmu, Preeti

Dear Sisters, There was an important information, that I missed out in yesterdays Circular. This is with regard to the closing down of two of our communities due to the shortage of Sisters for our various apostolates in different communities.

1. The decision to close down ALPHONSA NIKETAN , CHURADOHAR was taken in the Provincial Plenary Council Meeting held on 30th December, 2024, which was accepted by the Provincial of Hazaribag Jesuits and was ratified by the General Council. This will come to effect 15th May, 2024.

2. With the Permission of the General Council, we are also withdrawing our service from, St. Joseph's School, Rajauli, with effect from 31st March , 2024. On behalf the entire Province, especially the Provincial Council, I extend my sincere thanks to our dear Sisters, Sr. Jency, Sr.Magi and Sr. Madhu of Churadohar community and Sr. Jossy and Sr. Nancy who were part of Nawada community , for their selfless and dedicated service in these two places. May God bless and reward them ! - Sr. Lissy Thomas.

1.

Wishing each one of you the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord!

Yours lovingly,

LeRoy Green

Prayer in Preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

The government of the earth is in the hand of the Lord, and over it he will raise up the right leader for the time (Sirach 10:4)

***Recite the following prayers 10 times. End each decade by reciting Sir: 4.10**

1st Prayer : -Wash all 130 crore people of India —anyone and everyone—in your Holy Blood. Fill them with the Holy Spirit. Give them Your Holy Wisdom. Grant them the skills and graces to face the Lok Sabha elections successfully. (say ten times)

2nd Prayer :- Guardian Angels of all 130 crore people, we thank you for the protection that You give to all during the day and the night. Give each one of them the message and revelation whom to vote for. (say ten times)

3rd Prayer: Let Saint Michael the Archangel, heaven's troopers, and all the nine Choirs of Angels, take over the power and control of all aspects of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. (say 10 times)

4th Prayer: Wash the new 543 MPs, new Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, and their secretaries, with your Holy Blood and fill them with Holy Spirit! (say ten times)

5th Prayer: Submerge and wash all those people whom Satan is preparing to do evil in the Lok Sabha election and the five years of the new rule, in the sea of Your Holy Blood, and free them from all evil.



.Pray during the Offertory Prayer at Mass

We submit all Holy Masses, rosaries, fastings, and self denials taking place all over the world today towards the blessing on the Lok Sabha elections to our Heavenly Father.

NB:

1. When you recite this Prayer, see the fruits and anointing making its influence all over India. Thank God and rejoice with faith for the same.

23. Until the results of the Lok Sabha elections are out, continue this Prayer fervently.

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- Sr. Lissy Thomas.

