



FRANCISCAN CLARIST CONGREGATION

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Peace & Joy

LPS/07/24

16th October, 2024

Prot. No.118/24

My dear loving Sisters,

October is a symphony of nature's transition.
As the leaves change color and fall,
there is a sense of renewal and reflection in the air.
Spiritually, it's a month to reconnect, as not only all the Franciscans but all nature lovers, and lovers of peace, remember and try to practice the ideals and principles of St. Francis of Assisi, who embraced simplicity and poverty and upheld the values of universal brotherhood and love and care for God's creation.



The celebration of the Rosary in October adds to it a spirit of contemplation and prayer, inviting us to deepen our faith in the power of the holy Rosary and to use it as a weapon against all evil. Moreover, it is also the harvest season, where we remember with gratitude what we have been receiving bountifully from God. It's a time when communities come together, sharing the fruits of their labor and recognizing the blessings of the past year.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy"(Psalm 126:3)

In this season of change and abundance, we are reminded of the countless blessings we receive from God. Every day, He showers us with gifts—both seen and unseen that sustain and uplift. It's in moments of reflection and prayer that we realize the depth of His generosity. By cultivating a spirit of gratitude, we not only honor these blessings but also open our hearts to receive even more of His divine love and grace. Let us give thanks and strive to live in constant appreciation for all that He provides.

As our term comes to a close, we the members of the Provincial Team are filled with profound gratitude. First and foremost, we thank God for his constant guidance, strength, and wisdom, which have been our rock of refuge throughout these years. His grace has enabled us to serve with dedication and purpose.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."(1 Thess.1:2,3)

To all our beloved Sisters, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your unwavering support, collaboration, and faith have been the driving force behind our efforts. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes and grown in unity and faith. We are deeply grateful

for the privilege of serving you, in whatever humble ways we could for the past three years. May God continue to bless each one of you abundantly!

First of all, I extend to the members of the Provincial Council; Rev. Sr. Leela Jose, Sr. Cincy, Sr. Sushma, Sr. Jyoti Soren, and to Sr. Jeseena the Provincial treasurer and Sr. Shobhita, who combined the demanding task of the Provincial Secretary with the heavy responsibility of the Local Superior of the Provincial House Community. Dear loving Sisters, your dedication, co-operation and unwavering support have made these past three years a journey of profound faith, despite the challenges and trials. Each of you brought unique strengths and perspectives, enriching our collective efforts in all our undertakings together. Working together, we have faced challenges head-on and celebrated successes that have strengthened our commitment to the special Mission that has been thrust upon us by God three years ago. It has been an honor to me to serve alongside such a committed, understanding, efficient and supportive group of Sisters.

I raise my heart in gratitude to God for all our former Provincial Superiors, Rev. Sr. Lourdes Mary, Rev. Sr. Regy, Rev. Sr. Caroline and Rev. Sr. Mercy for your love, guidance, corrections and above all for your relentless prayerful support! Thank you dear Reverend Sisters, for your constant encouragement that helped us sail through difficulties. Your visionary leadership and steadfast dedication have laid a strong foundation for our Province. We are truly grateful for your contributions and the legacy of faith, service, and excellence you have imparted. Thank you for your exemplary leadership and enduring impact.

My heartfelt thanks to the local Superiors of our 39 communities! Your selfless dedication to leadership, and unwavering commitment as shepherds of your sheepfold over the past three years have been the backbone of our Province. Your guidance has nurtured growth, fostered unity and instilled a spirit of service within our communities. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and the sacrifices you have made in the service of your sisters in the communities. Thank you for your exemplary service and steadfast devotion!

To the administrators of our institutions – Schools, special school, Hospitals, Dispensaries, the destitute home, Social Service Centres and hostels, we owe a deep sense of gratitude. In today's Indian context, it is greatly challenging and not at all easy to run and manage institutions – be it big or small. Your exceptional leadership, vision and tireless dedication dear Sisters, have been pivotal in actualizing the Vision and Mission of the Province. Over the past three years, you have faced all challenges with grace and fostered such environments, where education, compassion, and community spirit thrive. Thank you for your relentless pursuit of the FCC ideals and values and your unwavering devotion to our cause of upholding the FCC Charism and values through our Mission and ministries and for your zeal in spreading God's Kingdom.

Thanks to all our formators, who do not leave any stone unturned in their effort of moulding and shaping the young formees entrusted to their care. We appreciate the way you are nurturing and guiding the young ones on their spiritual and personal journeys. Your efforts in shaping the minds and hearts of our future leaders have been commendable.

My heartfelt thanks to each one of you dear Sisters, who are the true working force of our Province, the foot soldiers of God's Kingdom, whose hard work, dedication and spirit of sacrifice enable the rest of us to live in peace and in good health.

I thank Sr. Tessin and the Kumaranelloor community for always being there for our sick sisters who go there for treatment and for other matters. Everyone feels welcome there and well cared for. My special thanks to Srs. Sushma and Vineeta and now Sr. Anjali who along with Srs. Tessin and Elsy Jose have been lovingly taking care of our Rev. Sr. Caroline, as she is undergoing the treatment at Caritas Hospital. Let us thank the good Lord for the healing touch she is experiencing these days.

My sincere thanks goes to Sr. Jessy Abraham & Team at Holy Family Hospital, Koderma along with Sr. Pushpam and the Assisi Bhawan, Koderma community, and also Sr. Sushma & Team at St. Francis Hospital, Jasidh together with Sr. Merline and the community, who are always most cordial, helpful and generous in taking care of all our Sisters who go there for medical help.

We owe a special thanks to Sr. Julie and our student Sisters of the Alphonsa Bhawan Ranchi community, who welcome and care for our sisters and others who often go there to have a stopover and rest there. Thank you dear Sisters, for your generosity and availability!

I thank all our Formees in different stages of formation, who have responded to God's call to follow him generously. Thank you for inspiring us through your enthusiasm, submissiveness and determination.

The Election Synaxis:

The upcoming Provincial Election Synaxis, is a significant event for our Province and to the entire congregation, a time to reflect on our Charism and Mission and to choose leaders who will guide us in the spirit of the Franciscan ideals. Just as St. Francis sought to rebuild the Church through his life and teachings, we too are called to renew our commitment to the gospel values of peace, forgiveness, love and universal fraternity, and to elect leaders who embody the principles of humility, service, and peace.

In a world that is torn apart by conflict and division, the message of St. Francis is more relevant than ever. His famous prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace," calls us to be active peacemakers in our communities and beyond. St. Francis' life was a testament to the power of peace and reconciliation, as he sought to bridge divisions and bring people together through love and understanding.

St. Francis' approach to peace was rooted in his deep faith and his belief in the inherent goodness of all creation. He saw every living being as a reflection of God's love, and treated everyone with compassion and respect. His encounter with the Sultan during the Crusades is a powerful example of his commitment to peace and dialogue, even in the face of great danger.

As we prepare for the Provincial Election Chapter and reflect on the life of St. Francis this month, let us be inspired by his example to seek peace in our own lives and in the world around us. Let us choose leaders who are open and submissive to the promptings of the Spirit and who will guide us with wisdom and humility, and let us commit ourselves to being instruments of peace in a world that so desperately needs it.

I would request all the Synaxis members to read carefully and study the last two circulars of our Mother General, especially her instructions and exhortations for the Election. Let us also study the relevant articles from Constitution and 'Our Way of Life' related to the election Procedure and prepare ourselves with earnest prayers and penance, that God may bless our Province with spirit-filled leaders, for the coming three years.

As our Mother General has exhorted us in her last circular, let us keep ourselves away from the scourge of campaigning – which is a serious sin against the Holy Spirit. Let us in silence, prayerfully listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, And, not let ourselves be carried away BY ANY HUMAN VOICES, to choose the leader/s for our Province, who are according to God's heart.

May our Father St. Francis, who was always docile to the Holy Spirit, guide us in this journey of discernment!

Important News and Events

- The Province level Bible Quiz - **Rhema'24**, will be **conducted at St. Francis School, Jasidih** on Sunday, 27th October, afternoon at 2.30 p.m. The link will be sent to all the Local Superiors, so that you can watch the event live, by being in your community.

The participants whose names are given below should reach Jasidih on 27th October, before noon. Four Sisters who scored the highest marks in every zone are chosen to represent their zones in the Bible Quiz. There will be two teams having two participants each in every Zone. I wish all the very best to the participants and also to Sr. Cincy and the team who are making all the arrangements for conducting the Bible Quiz –

Zones	Team A	Team B
HAZARIBAG ZONE	Sr. Sunita, Sr. Anju	Sr. Clare, Sr. Ritty
RANCHI ZONE	Sr. Joyce, Sr. Kiran	Sr. Sherly, Sr. Archana
JASIDIH ZONE	Sr. Neelima, Sr. Rashmita	Sr. Navya, Sr. Arti.
BAGDOGRA ZONE	Sr. Divya, Sr. Tessy Antony	Sr. Margaret, Sr. Sunita Tigga

- **The winners will be awarded during the election Synaxis.**
- The Local Superiors of those communities, where Postulants are sent for Regency, are requested to send 2 copies of their reports to the Provincial House by the first week of December.
- Kindly find the **Time Table for the Election Synaxis** overleaf.
- **To the shores of eternity**
 - Sr. Suma's beloved Mother – Mary on 24th September.
 - Sr. Sushma's beloved Brother – Anil Joseph on 6th October.

*May the peace of God bring you comfort and strength dear Sisters, and may His love enfold you during this difficult time.
You are in our thoughts and prayers...*

Yours lovingly in Jesus,

Sr. Lissy Thomas.



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