

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

LA SALETTE MATHA PROVINCE

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“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ”

– Pope Saint John Paul II, on the day of his installation as Bishop of Rome on October 22, 1978.

In this issue of our monthly circular, I would like to reflect on the great personality of St. Pope John Paul II. On May 18, 2020, we celebrated the 100th birth anniversary of this great pope and saint. This first Polish Pope was born in 1920, just two years after his country regained its independence after 123 years of foreign occupation.

His work dominated and influenced the thought and action of the 20th century political and socio-religious leadership. Through his pilgrimages to over 120 countries and meeting global leaders, the faithful and representatives of other denominations, St John Paul II became known as the apostle of dialogue. He was a great religious leader who touched people’s hearts and never forgot his roots.

Through the words he spoke and wrote, St. John Paul II continues to speak to us, especially now as the world is gripped by the fear, anxiety, sickness, and death of the covid-19 pandemic. His words, which he proclaimed on the day of his installation resonate today more powerfully than ever: “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.”

St. John Paul II noted that man is often “assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair.” He urged people to trust in Christ, because “He alone has the words of life, yes, of eternal life.”

The Pope’s words: “Do not be afraid” echo the words that the angel Gabriel spoke when he announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, and the words that the risen Christ greeted his apostles with when he greeted them after the resurrection.

Now as a modern-day plague has engulfed the earth, with the novel corona virus killing approximately 316,000 people and infecting nearly 4.8 million worldwide, it’s important to remember those words spoken by the angel Gabriel, by the risen Christ and later by St. John Paul II. As the COVID-19 pandemic has caused death, physical and economic suffering, sorrow and anxiety, we can transform fear into faith, when we open our hearts and our lives to Christ.

A Swiss Guard shared his memories about the late Pope John Paul II while he was serving him: “Once he told me why [the Scriptural phrase] “Do not be afraid” was so important for him. He said, “Do you know, Mario, why we don’t need to be afraid?” I said, “No, your Holiness, I don’t.” He said: “Because God is always one day ahead of us.”

Pope Francis said in his homily at a Mass celebrating the centenary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla, the first Polish Pope, “God loves his people and he visits them...in difficult times” and “out of love he sends a prophet, a man of God.”

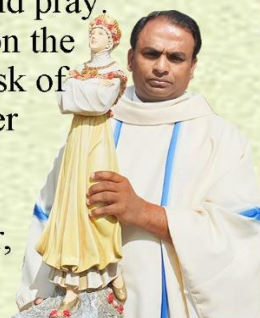
In fact, we have a great Saint whom God prepared ahead to intercede for us when the world faces this crisis of pandemic. We know him and he knows us. With a great hope in his power of intercession, let us cast all our fears and open ourselves for Christ.

This month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let us consecrate ourselves, our families, places of ministries and the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and pray:

“O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender mother and ours.”

-Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Yours in our Blessed Mother,
Fr. Sajive Maliakal





LA SALETTE ASHRAM, WAYANAD

Retreat: Fr. Bibin Parakunnel MS conducted a one week retreat for the Rogationist Brothers, who were entering to their Canonical Year of Novitiate, from 6th to 12th of May 2020 at Meenangady, Kerala.

Cultivation: The Ashram Community was fully active in cultivating different things such as tapioca, ginger, turmeric, beans etc... during this time of lockdown.

Cooking: Under the leadership of Fr. Anit Mavathara MS. We made different preparations of jackfruit namely Chakkavaratiyathu, Chakkavaruthath and Chakkaunakkiyath.



LA SALETTE BHAVAN, PARAKKADAU

Celebration: Bhavan Community celebrated the profession anniversary of all the fathers at La Salette Bhavan.

Send off: The Bhavan Community extended prayerful wishes to all the brothers who completed their one year minor seminary formation at La Salette Bhavan and moving to their next level of formation. Brothers left for their annual vacation.

Welcome: Bhavan community officially welcomed Fr. Joy Chukkananickal MS to our community.

A Forced Vacation: Corona was not kind enough to our Philosophy brothers who are supposed to go back to Bangalore after their Annual vacation. They are waiting at La Salette Bhavan until the Government will open public transport to Karanataka. While waiting, they are preparing for their BA Exams, working at the Bhavan property and enjoying their extended vacation at our community.



Ordination Anniversary
(16 June 1988)

Augustine cheerakathil MS

MONTHLY INTENTION

Pray that those have Coronavirus will be healed, and that its spread would slow and be soon eradicated



LA SALETTE NIKETAN, HUNSUR, MYSORE

Clearing of River Area: The Niketan community, with the prior permission of the provincial administration, began the initial process of clearing the land and fencing work. We request prayer support of all the community members for the completion of the work.

Future Christian Colony: The Niketan community with lots of struggle initiated the work of this future project. It's a tough task to be fulfilled for the development of the Niketan Campus. We request the prayer support of all the members.

Renewal of Vows: Sr. Ramya, in charge of LKG section in our La Salette School, renewed simple vows of obedience, poverty and chastity. Fr. Jobit was the main celebrant of the Eucharist and delivered very meaningful homily

Marian Month: The community had very meaningful conclusion of the Marian month. The solemn rosary procession began from the convent and concluded at the Grotto. After the solemn prayer service, we had "Nercha Payasam."

Banana Cultivation: The Niketan community had the first banana harvest and gifted to the Bangalore La Salette community.

Tapioca Utsav: The Niketan community, after few years, did tapioca preparation for the off season. All the members were actively participated and shared previous experiences.

Send Off: The Niketan community organized a very beautiful send off program to bid farewell to our outgoing members Fr. Johny, Fr. Jobit and for Sisters Karuna and Ramya. We had one hour thanksgiving adoration followed by simple or colorful farewell program. Fr. Johny served Niketan seminary as Superior for three years and one year as Novice master and Fr. Jobit worked two years in the Niketan School. This year the Niketan community will miss the presence of Frs Johny and Jobit. We wish them all the best for their future mission.

Visits of fathers: The Niketan community had the visit of Fr. Robin Vallatu, Fr. Jesbin, Fr. Jineesh Karakkada, Fr. Sanish Alappatu, and Fr Provincial. We express our gratitude to all of them.

Brothers Back to the Seminary: Nine of our brothers are back to the seminary after two months of vacation. They are in the Novitiate House for seven days of surveillance as part of the rules.





LA SALETTE SADHAN, BENGALURU

Birthday Celebration: Sadhan community solemnly celebrated the Birthday of Scho. Joyal Narimattathil on 15th May. Community wished and prayed for him and for his family.

Preparation for the Pentecost: We had ten days of Holy Spirit Novena in preparation to the Pentecost. On the Pentecost vigil we had solemn Adoration led by Scho. Nikhil Thekkineeth.



JUNE

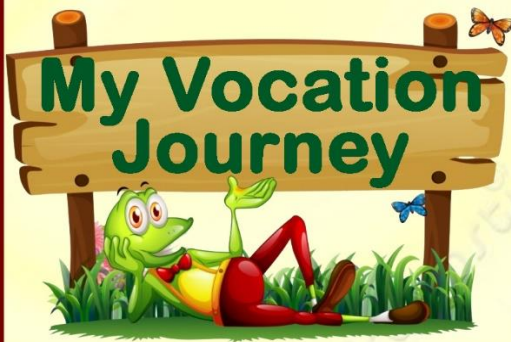
07	1987	Birthday	Alappattu Saneesh
12	1990	Birthday	Arugolanu Benjamin
22	1984	Birthday	Manchira Anoop
24	1988	Birthday	Gomp Manibushana Rao
30	1989	Birthday	F. Thooyanathan



JULY

03	1971	Birthday	Kalliath James
03	1988	Birthday	Kizhikandayil George





DN. LITHIN PALAKKAL MS

“It was His Love for me”

St. Teresa of Child Jesus describes her vocation “my vocation is love “. Her life on earth proved that it was not just the love of Jesus for her, rather she

loved Jesus as much. Her short life of 24 years on earth was an intense love story... she understood Jesus. Thus she had no means than to love Him.



It is my humble attempt to define my vocation. Would I be ever able to say that “my vocation is love”? Indeed I would be able to say that “my vocation is love “. But I will never be able to say that it was my love for Him, since I failed over and over and over again in responding to His love. Therefore my vocation can be summarized as His unconditional love for me. His love has been on my way all through out the years of my journey. When I was weak He made me strong, when my eyes were wet I saw Him close to me, when there was no way to go forward He became the way, and when things were vague I tasted the intimacy of His friendship. His first Love for me is still distinct, firm, true and goes beyond boundaries even though I faded. Yes, it is His Love for me.

The memories of attending the Ordination of Fr. Baiju Avittapally MS, my uncle, as a small kid is still alive in me and it was my first inspiration to be a priest. God’s love drew a poem that no shadows could do any real harm to my first inspiration. From the very first day to this day it has been an awesome journey which revealed God’s providence and the first inspiration remained strong foundation to my vocation.

I decided to postpone joining the seminary from SSLC to +2 since it was difficult for me to leave the joys of school life and the bonds of friendship. God might have observed dangers in it and I joined La Salette family on 15th June 2008, after SSLC studies itself. The very first year of formation challenged me to form firm convictions on vocation. The years of philosophy provided a thirst to find reasons for my faith. Quite often philosophical thoughts overruled my mind and in these years I doubt whether I have thought seriously about my vocation

The death of my father in the middle of my philosophical studies forced me to have a serious look on my call. I was thoughtless to discern between. This was the first, last and the only time I thought of leaving the seminary. On my way home being the elder son, I have decided to say good bye to my religious life considering two things :1. I need to take care of my mother, 2. Brothers are still studying.

Anyhow I returned to Sadhan after few days since nobody asked me to stay back, rather all asked me the date of going back. I met my spiritual director in order to make right decision in this difficult times and it was one of the best spiritual directions I ever had had in my life. Dr. Thomas Kalariparambil, my spiritual director, after explaining very practical answers to my questions concluded with this statement **“God takes care of your mother and your family hundred times better than you take care of provided that you live your vocation in its dignity”**. Time and life of many faithful religious proves that this statement is awesome.

When I look back I realize that no two vocations are the same. Each vocation is very personal and unique gift. This gift is his love for me.