



PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR NO. – 15

Ycd/Cir./15/2011

30.11.11



Dear Brothers,

Fraternal Greetings!

The Latin word '**Adventus**' is the equivalent of the Greek word '**Parousia**' meaning the second coming of Christ. Hence, it is a time when we **wait** like the Hebrews for the birth of the Messiah as well as for the return of Christ, His second coming. Waiting is a 'virtue'. If we have an appointment with a VIP or we give an appointment for some one, we tend to become anxious as the appointed time approaches. If we are waiting for a friend in the Railway Station/Airport/Bus stand, we know what happens if he/she doesn't arrive at the appointed time. We keep looking at the watch continuously and keep scanning with our eyes everyone passing by. Our anxiety, concern, disappoint, and delight will be proportional to our 'Love' for that person for whom we are/were waiting for. If this is our human experience in our day-to-day lives, imagine the intensity with which we should 'wait for the Lord'. St. Luke explains clearly how one should '**prepare**' and '**wait**' for the Lord. Lk 12-35. Through the 'voice of one calling in the desert' evangelists Mathew and Mark tell us the need for 'repentance' as the most important criteria for this preparation. The best red carpet of welcome to be spread for the Messiah is our repentance. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him" Mark 1/3. When these Gospel principles are strictly followed, our waiting becomes a 'virtue'. The King of the Virtuous will enter our homes and will be born again in our hearts!

In the same manner in which we clean and prepare our homes in anticipation of our welcomed guests and family members, at this Christmas season, let us also prepare our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Christ, our most honoured and

eagerly anticipated Guest, desires to meet with us in a heart prepared for his arrival. So eager is he to meet with us that he offers to help us with our spiritual housecleaning, working with us; creating a resting place for Himself within our hearts. According to Angel Patrick, the way to Christmas lies through an ancient gate....It is a little gate, child-high, child-wide, and there is a password: ***"Peace on earth to men of good will."*** May you, at this Christmas, become a little child again and enter into His kingdom.

Tagore invites us to be 'attentive' and 'alert' through his beautiful poem

"Have you not heard his silent steps?"

"He comes, comes, ever comes.

Every moment and every age, every day and every night

He comes, comes, ever comes.

Many a song have I sung in many a mood of mind,

but all their notes have always proclaimed,

'He comes, comes, ever comes'...

Well, He continues to come every moment. There is no 'time-space' limitation to Him. It is we who create and need such boundaries, a time for birth and a time for death.

*"In sorrow after sorrow it is his steps that press upon my heart,
and it is the golden touch of his feet that makes my joy to shine.*

"The blessings you will receive at His coming will be proportional to the degree of your preparation and watchfulness."

The Spirit of Christmas must be the Spirit of Christ and should not be lost with sentimental Greetings, external celebrations and superfluous spending. Instead, I suggest that we make this Christmas unique and different from our past celebrations of the same by 'giving' rather than 'receiving'. If I say give your 'love' give your 'time' give your 'energy' or even prayers, you would say, 'yes we are doing it...' For a change let us give something which we hold dear to us. I mean, deprive ourselves of something which we need so much that it pinches us, and give it to a poor man/woman. There is no merit in giving from your surplus or from the abundance. If we do this, we will have a great Christmas! We can look at Him with deep humility and say "Happy Birthday, Lord Jesus, Help me to identify myself with the 'least' and give at least a bit of myself to my brothers & sisters, so that I too can strive to become an **authentic leader** like you to build **greater brotherhood** in a world where the gap between the poor and rich are widening day by day".

I wish all of you, such a radical Christmas -2011.

"When you sing, the hungry hears you with his/her stomach". - Kahlil Gibran

1. Advent Sector Recollections: The three Sector Recollections in preparation for the Advent were meaningfully organized by the three animators. Similarly the far away communities also organized the Advent preparatory recollections seriously. My sincere appreciation to the animators and to all the Brothers of the Province.

2. Capitulant for the 31st General Chapter: The second round of votes for the delegate for the 31st General Chapter were counted by Bros. Ignatius M, Oliver, Paul Kaiprambat, Jenny Kuriakose and George Kalangod. **Bro. K.K Thomas is elected as the Capitulant for the 31st General Chapter.** My sincere congratulations to him.

3. International Congress in Rome: There will be an 'International Congress' in Rome on "The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the world today", organized by eight congregations of Brothers in September 2012 (from September 2 to September 29). Our congregation is allotted 4 or 5 members. From Indian Provinces two Brothers are identified for the same. **Bro. Prabhu** has been selected as one of them. We congratulate Bro. Prabhu and we thank the Superior General and his council for including Bro. Prabhu for this important program.

4. International Community at St. Laurent: The Central Administration is establishing an International Community, at **St. Laurent-sur-sevre**, the place where St. Louis Marie de Montfort lived. Brothers from our Province who would like to join this community may send in their request to me. There are many interesting conditions to be part of this Community, such as six years term, learning of French, Psychological ability to live internationally etc... *"It will be essential for them to be prepared to live internationally, therefore they should have psychological ability to live internationally; unity through diversity; linguistic ability; fluency in French is compulsory ; knowledge in Montfortian Spirituality and History; relations ability: to insert oneself in the world of young French students."* This community will come to existence before September 2012.

5. Second Annual Retreat: The Second Annual Retreat will be organized in CRI Brothers Institute Bangalore, from 26th December (7.30 P.M) to 31st December (5.00 P.M). All the Brothers who have not participated in the first Annual Retreat will join the Second Retreat without fail and benefit from the same fulfilling the constitutional requirement. Kindly follow the guidelines already given in Circulars No. 12 & 13 regarding the Annual Retreats. Local Superiors will send me at the earliest the list of Brothers from their communities participating in the Retreat.

6. Accountants: Most of the Communities/Institutions have managed to appoint trained/experienced accountants and are carrying out their responsibilities well. However, some of the accountants are not efficient enough or are not suitable for this important job. Local Superiors, Bursars and Principals are requested to take the required steps to rectify this situation at the earliest.

7. New pay scale details: A format calling for the salary and pay details was circulated to all the Local Superiors/Principals/Bursars (refer Circular No. 13 item No. 1 (a). Some of the communities are yet to complete and return the same to me. Kindly send the same at the earliest.

8. Re- appointment of Staff and Workers: When Staff and Workers who had left our Institution due to various reasons are appointed again in the same institution or in another institution of ours at a later period, (including retired ones) they must be

properly screened by the appointing committee/the concerned appointing Authority. It is advisable that they check with the previous competent Authority during whose tenure that person had left the institution or was terminated. If a Staff/Worker was a victim of some circumstances and deserves our favorable consideration, it should be done in consultation with the Provincial Superior, so that there will not be any misunderstanding between our Brothers nor will some of these persons take undue advantage and create tension among our Brothers.

9. Excursions, Tours & Special Coaching: Most of our schools are organizing excursions, tours and special coaching as part of our holistic education. Kindly obtain the required permission from the concerned authorities particularly from the Education Departments for long tours & excursions. For long trips, insurance must be taken. The amount collected from the students/parents should be brought into the community account or bus/uniform account. The balance amount should be either distributed back to the students with the knowledge of the Parents or utilized for some projects in the school with the consent of the parents, within the framework of the existing guidelines in our Accounting Manual/Province Directory.

10. Prayer for General Chapter/Vocations: Local Superiors will take steps to see that the prayer for 31st General Chapter is recited daily, preferably during the evening prayer. Similarly you are requested to pray daily during the morning or evening prayers, the prayer for vocations. If any one of you need copies of these prayers, kindly contact me.

11. CBSE School at Belagola: Our academic School at Belagola has obtained the affiliation from the Central Board of Secondary Education up to Class X. My sincere appreciation to all concerned, especially to Bro. Monachan, Principal, Montfort Sen. Sec. School, Delhi.

12. Obituary:

- a) Mr. Philip, 93, uncle of Bro. M.P John passed away on 18.11.11.
- b) Mrs. Sabariammal, 54, aunty of Bro. Arul Deepa Raj passed away on 17.11.11.
- c) Mr. George 76, Brother-in-law of Bro. Joseph Nirappil, passed away on 24.11.11.
- d) Mr. Aaron, 53, uncle of Bros. John David & Christu Raj passed away on 29.11.11.

Our prayerful condolences. May their souls rest in peace.

Affectionately in Christ,

Bro. George Kalangod
Provincial Superior

