

CIRCULAR LETTERS OF SUPERIOR GENERAL

**Superior General
Sisters of Mary Immaculate
Motherhouse and Generalate
Krishnagar 741101
West Bengal, INDIA**



**Telefax: 03472-252459
Motherhouse Tel: 03472-252296
E-mail: smisupgen@bsnl.in**

7 October 2009
Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

My dear Sisters, Novices, Postulants, Candidates and Visitors:

Prayerful greetings on this feast of our Blessed Mother!

May we constantly experience the loving company of our Blessed Mother and be filled with her radiant joy to present Jesus to everyone as she did.

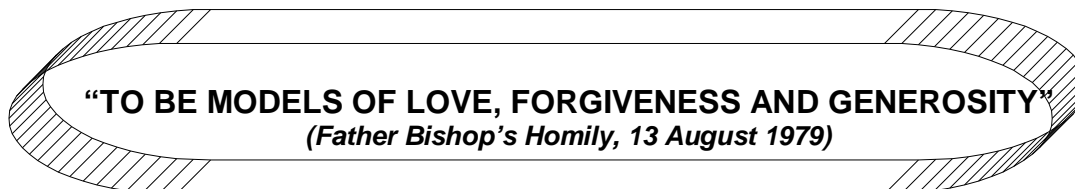
Releasing of the *Thoughts* of our beloved Father Bishop

On 25th August 2009, the Name's Day of Father Bishop, I was privileged to release the *Inspirational Thoughts* of our Father Founder after the Eucharistic celebration.

We congratulate our dear Sr. Jane Nadackal, Sr. Gracy Arimpur and our 35 novices in Krishnagar who were instrumental in realizing the suggestion to prepare a small box of over 100 thoughts of Father Bishop for the Diamond Jubilee Year of our Congregation. We thank Sr. Daisy Andrade for seeing to the printing and getting it ready on time. By now, I am sure all of you have received them in our communities. We shall keep it in a convenient place for everyone to draw inspirations from our Father dear.

SMI MOTTO for the Year 2010

We have a striking **motto** for the coming year taken from one of the thoughts of our beloved Father Bishop:



Acceptance of our Novices to the Profession of their First Vows

Our eleven second year novices in India and three in Tanzania are accepted to the profession of their first vows. They are:

In India			
Novice	Elizabeth Kiro	to be	Sister Elizabeth Kiro
”	Indira Priyadarsini	”	Sister Indira Priyadarsini
”	Jyothi Pothuraju	”	Sister Jyothi Pothuraju
”	Nirmala Derangula	”	Sister Nirmala Derangula
”	Nirmala Soren	”	Sister Nirmala Soren
”	Preety Lakra	”	Sister Preety Lakra
”	Rajani Manukonda	”	Sister Rajani Manukonda

„	Rina Biswas	„	Sister Rina Biswas
„	Rinny Vanthuparambil	„	Sister Rinny Vanthuparambil
„	Rosline Kerketta	„	Sister Rosline Kerketta
„	Sailaja Kalaparathi	„	Sister Sailaja Kalaparathi
In Tanzania			
„	Ester Gabriel Ngede	„	Sister Ester Ngede
„	Lucia Dominick Mwaipungu	„	Sister Lucia Mwaipungu
„	Neema Robert Mkwizu	„	Sister Neema Mkwizu

The first profession in India will take place on Tuesday, 8th December 2009 at our Motherhouse, Krishnagar. In Miyuji, Tanzania it will be on Monday, 14th December as their Bishop is not available earlier.

OUR JUBILARIANS OF 2010

Golden Jubilarians:

Sr. Gloria Kuttikadan (5 January 1960)
 Sr. Maria Pallikunnath „
 Sr. Rosy Thanikel „
 Sr. Veronica Arakal
 Sr. Clare Punnelparambil (2 July 1960)
 Sr. Imelda Biswas „
 Sr. Marita Thottiyam „

Silver Jubilarians:

Sr. Amala Antony (1 October 1985)
 Sr. Anitha Aiyammathra „
 Sr. Daisy Andrade „
 Sr. Leena Fernandes „
 Sr. Lucy Thomas „
 Sr. Mercia Manjaly
 Sr. Nisha Pattamkulathu „
 Sr. Rima Karakkatte „
 Sr. Sheena Vadakumcherry „
 Sr. Vinitha Kalapurakkal „
 Sr. Wilma Karakkatte

Meeting with Provincial / Delegation Superiors

Thank you, my dear Sisters for accompanying us with your valuable prayers during our annual meeting. As scheduled the above meeting began on Thursday, 10th September 2009 at our Motherhouse, Krishnagar. After the personal meeting of our provincial and delegation superiors we had the meeting in common on the following three days. The whole day of 12th Sept. was dedicated to evaluate the progress of our life and mission in the three areas namely: **Future Thrust, the Vision Statement of GC VII**, and **Action Plan based on the theme of GC VII**. The next two days were spent in serious reflection, study and discussion on various issues: The Double Dimension of our Call: Mystical and Prophetic; Updates on the CRI National Assembly in Delhi, India; UISG Plenary Assembly in Rome from 7 to 11 May 2010; Formation and Vocation Promotion, Norms for opening a new foundation; Motto for 2010 and a theme for GC VIII.

The **shifts and U-turns** the Spirit urges us to make in our consecrated life at this time in history are:

- To be **‘on fire’**: In order to be on fire, to be relevant and meaningful, we need to make shifts from dualism to wholeness; hierarchy to mutuality; ghetto mentality to open system; security to ambiguity; and conformity to risk taking.
- As prophets we need to cultivate the use of our imagination and re-claim the importance of symbols and rituals in our life. **Moreover we need to recover the creativity of our charism: we need to look into today’s world with the eyes and hearts of our founders. Then new forms of consecrated life will emerge which are simple, radical, ecumenical, inserted among the people, flexible in structure, welcoming, attentive to symbolic language and to the present rhythms of life** (VC 12, 62).
- Further, to live our charism in the context of the Earth community in the 21st century is a big challenge facing us. As consecrated persons we need to ask time and again: **Are we a group which constantly revitalizes itself or are we LLMS (Low Level of Minimal Survival)?**

- We need to make the shift from developmental and charity model approach **to that of transformative model.**
- Option for the poor today also leads us to a serious **option for the non-poor.** The rich also needs to be conscientized. For this we need to work for structural changes. The economic and political structures that perpetuate poverty for the majority and affluence for the minority must change. All these will demand that **“the religious, not only opt for the poor; they also opt to be poor.”**
- They have to witness to a mystical dimension of life, where God is not alienating, but enriching and ennobling our existence. Religious need to become **“friends of Jesus,”** like Abraham who spoke to God face to face. Asian people expect religious to be “spiritual guides” “holy ones” who show **“the way”**. They want **humble, happy and prayerful religious rather than just achievers, specialists or professionals.**
- Another shift we need to make urgently in the present context is from **individual to team approach.** We need more collaboration, more communication, networking and inter-relationship among various religious orders and with other NGOs and GOs.

UISG Plenary Assembly in Rome

(7th to 11th May 2010)

Theme: **Drinking “from the fountain that springs forth and flows...
although it is night”** (St. John of the Cross).

Religious life finds itself today in a situation of deep searching, of creativity and pruning. The Spirit, who dwells in us, continually quenches our thirst with water from the Fountain that is always replenished. We are drawn and inspired by a love, which calls us to fill situations of darkness with prophetic light and to dwell courageously in new horizons. The future of religious life **lies in living fully our mystical yearning with our traditional calling to prophecy.**

Formation and Vocation Promotion

Realizing the importance of the role of the formator, who is to accompany our formees individually, our provincial superiors expressed their desire to have our formators in India joining them for the discussion. Hence about 13 of them were invited to join the session. Everyone got sufficient time to express and evaluate the present way of functioning and how much more can be done to improve this important aspect of one's religious life.

Welcome to propose a Theme for our GC VIII

Dear Sisters, by this circular I would invite all of you to think, reflect and pray as a congregation that the Holy Spirit may give us a fitting theme for our coming general chapter. All are welcome to give your suggestions individually or as a community by the end of December 2009. Please do take the chance to contribute creatively. Here below I am giving the proposed themes as a starting point for you to think and formulate an appropriate theme:

1. SMI, set on fire **to love God and help others to love him** in today's world, especially by our ministry to women, girls and children.
2. SMI, called to be contemplatives and prophets to transmit *Abba's* love and compassion in today's world especially to women, girls and children.
3. SMI, commissioned to be contemplatives in action to experience and transmit *Abba's* love and compassion in today's world.

This year being the **Diamond Jubilee Year of the Foundation** of our Congregation, we were indeed happy to hold at our Generalate the meeting of all the local superiors of our communities in India. Sr. Dina Vellamaruthunkal, provincial superior of our East African Province, and Sr. Jessy George, delegation superior of our First Delegation will share in detail the points of our meeting with the local superiors of their communities.

CRI National Assembly in Delhi, India – 27 Sept. to 2 Oct. 2009

Along with our provincial superiors of India, I attended this important and unique meeting held for the first time in the capital. The theme was “**TOWARDS A HARMONIOUS INDIA.**” We were about 550 major superiors. During the inaugural function the Honourable Minister Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development, appreciated the work of the religious especially in the field of education and gave us a short but thought-provoking message. He said that as educators we are the architects of tomorrow's India. Should it be an India with colours or of stratified mindset will depend on how we educate our children. As leaders we have to see to it. Leaders take people from where they are to where they have not been.

In our country about 400 million are still illiterate. 53% of women are illiterate. Mr. Sibal spoke of the three pillars of educational policy: **expansion, inclusion and excellence.** We should have provision for all kinds of education according to the aptitude of the children; especially in the rural areas. We should include everyone at every stage and situation and at the same time look for giving quality education. The marginalized should be absorbed. Allow everyone to discover and foster their interests and talents. To create a harmonious, a colourful India we have to accept the challenge to invest in people's minds not in real estate. Intellectual assets mean creativity. He concluded saying, "Thank you, for what you are doing for us. I salute you for it. But the task is unfinished, incomplete..."

The following days we were privileged to listen to eminent personalities - bishops, priests, religious, NGOs and other prominent laymen and women who enlightened us and brought to our awareness various topics of importance to create a *Harmonious India*. Some of the topics dealt with are: **Greening Consecrated Life, Uphold human Rights for an inclusive Society, Good Governance and People Living in Poverty, Peace Initiatives for Love and Unity, Empowerment of Women in the Church and Society, Gender Policy of Church in India for right Relationship, Ecological Spirituality towards a Harmonious Lifestyle, Challenges and Opportunities of Indian Church, and Major Changes in Consecrated Life.** The entire conference was a soul-searching and invigorating experience for the participants.

I will be leaving on 11th of this month for the visitation of our communities in the Northeast of India along with Sr. Daisy Andrade, and will be back to Motherhouse on 8 November.

Entrusting everyone of you, my dear Sisters, to the maternal care of our Blessed Mother,

Lovingly yours,

Sr. Lisette Thuruthimattam
Superior General