

PC 07/11

K.101.11

The Imitation of the Lord

(Admonition Number 6)

The best way to celebrate the Lent is to re-live the passion and death of the Lord by self-sacrifice and self-giving and not by merely speaking about and meditating on his sufferings. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has laid down his life for his sheep. It is a fact that there are sheep who have offered themselves by participating in the sufferings of the Good Shepherd and bore witness to the fact that they are true imitators of the Good Shepherd. Where there can be a better imitation of the Good Shepherd by the sheep? St Francis would affirm that this should be the fact in the case of every friar minor. Merely recounting the wonderful deeds of the martyrs would do little for us unless we are ready to live a life of total service and self-sacrifice and participate in the death of the Lord so that we might become his worthy imitators.

According to Francis, suffering persecutions, insults, rejection and hunger etc., is a unique way of imitating the Master. Just taking pride in the history of how martyrs suffered and died for faith is considered as a shameful thing by him. What is important is not how we remember the martyrs but how we emulate their example. Lent is the best time for us not merely to meditate and reflect over the suffering and death of the Lord, but also to imitate him by renunciation and self denial. The word 'renunciation' is abhorred by present generation of friars minor, whether it is in the use of gadgets, money, acquisition of things or self denials like asking permissions, giving up one's own opinion or desire. A worthy and meaningful celebration of Lent could be to appropriate for ourselves the genuine attitudes of "friar minor" who can become a true witness to this consumer oriented corrupt society. The insight given by Francis in this 'admonition' is that insults, humiliations, persecutions etc., purify a friar minor if he takes them in the right spirit. They can be converted into authentic means of imitating the "Good Shepherd who suffered the passion of the cross to save His sheep."

- Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado OFM Cap

Provincial Communications

1. Priestly Ordinations

Following Brothers have been promoted to Priestly Ordination:

- Br Vijay Kumar will be ordained by Most Rev. Anthony Swamy, the Bishop of Chikmagalur on May 4, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. in St. Joseph's Church, at Joseph Nagar, Hassan.
- Br Rohan D'Souza and Br Lancy Fernandes will be ordained by Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo, the Bishop of Shimoga on May 11, 2011 at 9.30 a.m. in Most Holy Saviour's Church at Agrar, Bantwal.
- Bros Royston D'Souza, Deepak Fernandes, Joel D'Souza, Dominic Lobo and Roshan Rosario will be ordained by Most Rev. Aloysius P. D'Souza, the Bishop of Mangalore on May 12, 2011 at 3.30 p.m. in St. Francis Xavier's Church, Bejai, Mangalore.

As announced earlier, they will be preparing for the ceremony through a retreat at Rishivana, from April 25 evening to May 1 evening, 2011. Let me wish a very fruitful ministry of Priesthood to all the new Priests.

2. The Solemn Profession

Following Brothers have been promoted to Solemn Profession:

- Bros Sunil Thomas Cornelio, Vinoto Justin Sumi, Johnson Paul D'Souza and Ivan Melwin D'Souza from Holy Trinity Province.
- Bros Vincy D'Costa, Seville Antao, Avinash Rodrigues and Michael Albuquerque from St. Antony's Vice Province of Goa.

The celebration of Solemn Profession of Brothers from Holy Trinity Province will take place on May 3, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. in St. Anne's Friary Chapel, at Bejai, Mangalore. They begin their one month preparation at FISI from March 31 to April 29, 2011. We pray that these Brothers will persevere in their profession till the end and live a very fervent life of dedication to the Lord.

3. The Simple Profession

Following Brother Novices have been promoted to make their Simple Profession:

- Bros Paul Alwyn D'Almeida, Tony Vijay Kiran, Sandeep A. D'Souza, Roshan Pereira, Joylus Delan Pinto, Nikson Sequeira and Wilfred Naveen D'Silva from Holy Trinity Province.
- Br Sanny Fernandes and Br Placido Valerian Ferrao from St. Antony's Vice Province of Goa.

The ceremony of Simple Profession of Brothers from Holy Trinity Province will take place on May 16, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. in Monte Mariano Chapel, at Farangipet. We wish our Brothers a very meaningful religious life of commitment to the service of the Lord and His people.

4. Promotion to the Novitiate

Following fourteen Postulants have been promoted to Novitiate formation:

- Bros Maxim D'Souza, Sandeep D'Souza, Greg Mathias, Sandeep B.A., Abhilash Pereira, Steven J. Dalabanjan, Ajith Noronha, Dominic Chishi, Vinay A. D'Souza, Lenson L. Lobo, Prakash J. Rodrigues, William P. Furtado, Ivan Pinto and Anston L. Fernandes.

They will be vested with the Capuchin Habit on May 15, 2011. We wish them a very fruitful novitiate.

5. Promotion of Brothers from St. Charles Lwanga Custody, Uganda

- Br Sseguya Francis has been promoted to Final Profession.
- Bros Paul Ebwangat, Lancy Saldanha and Sunil Ulahanan have been promoted to the Order of Diaconate.
- Bros Michael Muhasa and Antony Jakwonga have been promoted to the Priestly Ordination.

Congratulations to these Brothers and wish them good preparations for these celebrations and also a very meaningful and fruitful ministry afterwards.

6. The Appointments

- Br John Harry D'Souza Saccidananda, Bangalore
- Br Lourdsamy Ignasappa Anugraha, Bidar B.Ed course
- Br Satish Fernandes Sneha Jyothi Vidyalaya, Pothnal: Principal
- Br Prasanna Kumar Shanthi Nivas, D.C Hostel Warden
- Br William Prabhu Monte Mariano, Farangipet: Postulancy Director
- Br Manoj D'Souza Dayalbagh, Ujire: Orientation Director
- Br Claude Mascarenhas Christalaya: Chikodi: Asst. HM, St. Francis School
- Br Royston D'Souza St. Francis Friary, Lazami, Nagaland
- Br Vijay Kumar Trinity Mission : Shiggaon
- Br Deepak Fernandes Saccidananda, Bangalore : Provincial Secretary
- Br Lancy Fernandes St. Pio Delegation, Sri Lanka
- Br Joel D'Souza Trinity Vihar, Shivally: Vice Principal, Trinity Central School, SFO and Vocation Promotion: Udupi Region
- Br Sunil Dominic Lobo St. Francis Nivas, Kanchanpur: Head Master
- Br Roshan Rosario Assisi House: Director (St. Anne's Friary)
- Br Rohan D'Souza Monte Mariano, Farangipet: Vice Novice Master

7. The Universal /Direct Suffrage

The 82nd General Chapter of 2000 {AO OFM Cap 116 (2000) 1003; 1013} has made following amendment regarding the Universal suffrage (Const. No. 125.2)

“The Provinces that wish to celebrate the chapter with direct suffrage, that is, with the participation of all the perpetually professed brothers, decide this by a referendum in which at least 75% of the perpetually professed brothers of the province participate, and at least two thirds of the votes are in favor of the change. The decision is then recorded in the Procedures for Conducting a Provincial Chapter.”

Let me request all brothers to take note of this important information. I am grateful to Br. Valerian Fernandes for bringing this information to my notice.

8. The Inauguration of the Provincial Infirmary

The Provincial Infirmary situated at the ground floor of the Assisi House was inaugurated on 12th March 2011 in the presence of good number of friars. We would like to remember and thank all friars who have worked for its completion. The infirmary may start actually functioning only when all the prerequisites are fulfilled. It may take some time to employ adequate staff. Those brothers who wish to be the members of the Infirmary are requested to communicate to the Provincial Definitory through their Local Superiors. The Definitory will meanwhile prepare some statutes for the effective administration of the Infirmary.

9. The Custody of Japan

Whole nation of Japan is reeling under the tremendous shock of Tsunami, earthquake and nuclear radiations. Providentially all the Capuchins including our eight brothers are safe and secure. But the threat of radiations still exists. Please pray for our Brothers. Please see the supplement to the Circular in which our Brothers narrate their experiences.

10. Sneha Jyothi Vidyalaya, Pothnal

According to the new arrangement made for the school administration at Sneha Jyothi Vidyalaya, Pothnal, Br Robin Lopez will continue to be the Principal, Br Satish Fernandes will be the Correspondent and Sr Irene Martis UFS will be the acting Headmistress

11. Training Course in Tally Programme

Br. Joachim D’Souza, the Provincial Treasurer will organize a training programme in accounts at Darshan College. As the Auditors demand the accounts in Tally programme, all the Treasurers are requested to participate in the training. The course will be short lasting only for two days viz., April 13-14, 2011.

12. Jubilee Celebrations

- Br Apollinaris Pinto will hit the century on May 22, 2011. The Dayalbagh Fraternity is organizing the centenary Birthday celebration on May 10, 2011 with Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. We shall try to be present and wish him all the best. On behalf of the Province let me implore God's abundant blessings on him.
- Br Dominic Veigas is celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of his Life. The Holy Family Church will honour him on May 15, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. Please be present to greet him.
- Br Ben Britto is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination.
- Bros Alpheus, Santhosh Menezes, Joel Pinto and Crispin are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Profession.
- Bros Dolphy Serrao, Maxim Pinto, Gerald Lobo, Antony Lopez, Joachim D'Souza and Peter Cyprian D'Souza are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their Profession. We would like to greet all these brothers and join them to thank and praise the Lord for the manifold blessings they experienced as they faithfully committed themselves to His service. As per the Statutes No. 37, the celebrations of jubilees are to take place at the local level on a modest scale.

13. Provincial's Programme

April 2011	
1-6	Provincialate
7-8	Chikkodi
9-10	Visitation: Assisi Vihar, Shirvad
10-11	Visitation: St. Joseph's Friary, Lower Kasarkod
12-13	Visitation: Trinity Vihar, Shivally
13-14	Visitation: Holy Family Friary, Brahmavar
15	Udyavara - Mangalore
16-17	Provincialate
18	Definitory Meeting, Saccidananda
19-22	Provincialate
23	Solur
24-28	Provincialate
29	FISI: Thanksgiving Mass
30	Provincialate

Date: 26.03.2011

Place: Saccidananda, Bangalore




Br Vincent G. Furtado OFM Cap
Provincial Minister

Supplement to the Circular:
Communications from the Brothers in the Custody of Japan

16.3. 2011

Dear Brother Provincial,

Greetings! It's so comforting to hear from you. I do not know how to express my feelings of 11th March 2011, 14.46pm local time. It's my first and worst experience in my life. When I ran out of the store to the parking place, I could not believe my own eyes, that buildings making noise, people crying for help and so on; and the first thought came to my mind was that this is the end of Japan and cried in the presence of strangers. God alone knows what happened to me. From that day onwards I have spent sleepless nights in my little car because of aftershocks. No gas, no electricity, no proper food, no gasoline etc, Now what concerns is the nuclear power plant blast. The government and its officials have warned people to stay indoor, wear masks etc, Hope we overcome this tragedy with God's grace and by the help of all our brothers and sisters. Keep all of us in your prayers. May Almighty God protect these beautiful people and Nation.

Fraternally,

Alex

(Br. Alexander Daniel)

16.03.2011

Dear Fr. Provincial,

Thank you for your prayers and concern

We are all fine, and nothing to worry about.

The Japanese have shown that they are very resilient when the triple tragedy of earth quake, tsunami and nuclear accident took place. We share with them in their sorrow and pain. As the director of caritas of Saitama Diocese, I am also directly involved in relief work.

Part of our diocese is affected by the tsunami; this gives us more motivation to be with the suffering people around us. We believe God is always with us in our pain and sorrow. we are experiencing aftershocks frequently. There is no possibility of sleeping peacefully. The jolts make us uncomfortable. We should be o.k. after sometime. Please inform all the brothers that we are all safe and nothing to worry.

Thank you once again. We appreciate that you are thinking of us and you are with us in our difficult times.

Yours fraternally,

Claver

(Br. Claver D'Souza)

16.3. 2011

Dear Fr. Provincial,

Greetings of peace and love from Ajit. By the grace of God and by your prayers we are safe and sound here. Since the explosion of the nuclear plant, we are a bit worried, because its considered 10 times more devastating than the tsunami. So please keep people of Japan in your daily prayers so that the Lord may have mercy on them. Thank you for your kind thoughtfulness and prayerful support. Please convey my wishes to the brothers in the Provincialate.....

Thanking you,

Yours in Christ,

Ajit Rodrigues

Naha City, Japan

