



CIRCULAR NO 6/2018 JUNE

POPE FRANCIS: THE CHURCH, LIKE MARY, IS WOMAN AND MOTHER

(Homily of Pope Francis at Casa Santa Marta on the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church: Accessed on <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta/2018-05/pope-francis-mass-santa-marta-mary-church-woman-mother.html>)

The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, was observed for the first time on Monday; the movable feast is set for the first day following Pentecost.

“The Church is feminine,” Pope Francis said in his homily on Monday, “she is a mother.”

When this trait is lacking, the Pope continued, the Church resembles merely “a charitable organization, or a football team”; when it is “a masculine Church,” it sadly becomes “a church of old bachelors,” “incapable of love, incapable of fruitfulness.”

That was the reflection offered by Pope Francis during the Mass celebrated in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. The feast is being celebrated this year for the first time, after the publication in March of the decree *Ecclesia Mater* (“Mother Church”) by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Pope Francis himself decided the feast should be celebrated on the Monday immediately following Pentecost, in order “to encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety.”

The “Motherliness” of Mary

In his homily, Pope Francis said that in the Gospel, Mary is always described as “the Mother of Jesus,” instead of “the Lady” or “the widow of Joseph”: her motherliness is emphasized throughout the Gospels, beginning with the Annunciation. This is a quality that was noted immediately by the Fathers of the Church, a quality that applies also to the Church.

The Church is feminine, because it is “church” and “bride” [both grammatically feminine]: it is feminine. And she is mother; she gives life. Bride and Mother. And the Fathers go further and say that even your soul is the bride of Christ and mother.” And

it is with this attitude that comes from Mary, who is Mother of the Church, with this attitude we can understand this feminine dimension of the Church, which, when it is not there, the Church loses its identity and becomes a charitable organization or a football team, or whatever, but not the Church.

No to a Church of Old Bachelors

Only a feminine Church will be able to have “fruitful attitudes,” in accordance with the intention of God, who chose “to be born of a woman in order to teach us the path of woman.”

The important thing is that the Church be a woman, that has this attitude of a bride and of a mother. When we forget this, it is a masculine Church. Without this dimension, it sadly becomes a church of old bachelors, who live in this isolation, incapable of love, incapable of fecundity. Without the woman, the Church does not advance—because she is a woman. And this attitude of woman comes from Mary, because Jesus willed it so.

The Tenderness of a Mom

The virtue that primarily distinguishes a woman, Pope Francis said, is tenderness, like the tenderness of Mary, when she “gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.” She cared for Him, with meekness and humility, which are the great virtues of mothers.

A Church that is a mother goes along the path of tenderness. It knows the language of such wisdom of caresses, of silence, of the gaze that knows compassion, that knows silence. It is, too, a soul, a person who lives out this way of being a member of the Church, knowing that he or she is [like] a mother [and] must go along the same path: a person [who is] gentle, tender, smiling, full of love.

MONTH OF JUNE

The Month of June is dedicated for devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To celebrate the Heart of Christ means to turn toward the profound center of the Person of the Savior. In biblical language, "heart" indicates the center of the person where his sentiments and intentions dwell. In the Heart of the Redeemer we adore God's love for humanity, his will for universal salvation and his infinite mercy. The feast of the Sacred Heart is also World Day for the Sanctification of Priests, a favorable opportunity to pray that priests will put nothing before love of Christ.

PRIESTS' LIVING TOGETHER

I invite all the Diocesan Priests and the Religious Priests working in the Parishes of the Diocese to the **LIVING TOGETHER** of Priests' at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, which will begin on Tuesday 26 June at 10:00am and end by 1:00pm, Wednesday 27 June 2018.

PRIESTS' ANNUAL RETREAT

As it was made known to you earlier the Annual Retreat for our priests, both diocesan and religious priests working in the diocese, will be from Sunday, 29 July 2018 to Friday 03 August 2018 at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam.

ANNIVERSARY OF MY INSTALLATION

The anniversary of my installation as the Bishop of Calicut falls on June 10, 2018. Kindly pray for my intentions.

BIRTHDAYS - JUNE 2018

01	:	Fr Abraham (Jaimon) Akasalayil
03	:	Fr Justine Ollattupuram
06	:	Fr Sunny Padinharidath
15	:	Fr George Lewis
16	:	Fr John Bosco OSA
17	:	Fr Vimal Francis
30	:	Fr Jerald Joseph

We join you dear Fathers in thanking the Lord for the gift of life and wish you a very happy birthday and God's blessings. "**Ad Multos Annos**"

SEMINARY FORMATION FUND

St Antony's Church, Pakkom.....	10,000.00
Junior Priests' (ordained- 2009-2018).....	21,000.00
Er. James Kulangara.....	25,000.00
Sacred Heart Church, Payyoli.....	5,000.00
Total	61,000.00

BISHOP'S DIARY – JUNE 2018

June 01	10:00am	: Golden Jubilee, DSS Generalate, Pattuvam
June 02		: Bishop's House
June 03		: Episcopal Ordination of Paul Antony Mullassery, Kollam
June 04		: Kochi
June 05-07		: KCBC, POC, Palarivattam
June 08		: Bishop's House
June 09	12:00pm	: Catechism Day, Jubilee Hall, Cathedral
June 10		: Feast Mass, St Don Bosco Church, N. Paravoor
June 11		: Kottayam
June 12		: Feast Mass, Thrissur
June 13-14		: Retreat, Alpha Centre, Kochi
June 15	02:30pm	: Seminar, PMOC, Calicut
June 16	10:00am	: Catechism H. Ms' Meeting, PMOC
	03:00pm	: Arrival of New Batch, St Paul's Minor Seminary, Marikunnu
June 17	10:00am	: Feast Mass & Confirmation, Thalapuzha
June 18	10:00am	: Providence School, Calicut
June 19	06.30pm	: Jubilee Mass, Providence of Gap, Eranhipalam
June 20		: Bishop's House
June 21		: Engaged
June 22		: Engaged
June 23	11:00am	: Golden Jubilee, Bethany Provincial House, Chevayur
June 24	11:00am	: Forane BCC Meeting, Christ the King Church, Malaparamba
June 25		: Bishop's House
June 26-27	10:00am	: Living together of Priests', Navajyothis, Calicut
June 28		: Bishop's House
June 29	10:30am	: First Profession, Petrabhavan, Thazhathur, S. Bathery
June 30	10:30am	: Jubilee, Thanissery, Mala