**REGULAR FRANCISCAN TERTIARY SISTERS**

**ALL SAINTS PROVINCIALATE ALVERNA BHAVAN, BANGALORE – 560076**

**Phone -0802 6433086; E-mail: alvernabgl@gmail.com**

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**“Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your Word” (Lk:1/38)**

**Advent 2017 !**

**My dear sisters in Jesus Christ,**

**The Lord has given us the gift of closing a liturgical year and opening a new year! Once again comes the season of Advent with all its expectations and promises! With the Advent Season the church reminds us that "the Lord comes" and urges us to remain waiting, to prepare us to welcome Him.**

**The whole liturgy of Advent is calling us to a constant conversion to Christ and our sanctification! Most befitting call to the Third Order Franciscans!! External change in religious life is not as much important as the conversion of ourselves to Christ and our personal encounter with Him. By the 25 days of spiritual preparation and personal examination let us find out and correct what is not in conformity with Jesus, mainly in our thoughts and motivations, of what we do or do not. "Wake up from sleep”. "This is the favorable time", which the Lord offers us. A time of prayer and intense reflection, a time of deepest silence! Let's not let it fall into the void, but live intensely, so that Christmas will have its real meaning in our life; thus Infant Jesus will really get a place to be born…. In our hearts ….!!**

**In the heart of Advent, comes the solemnity of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of our beloved Mother. We are reaching close to her Immaculate heart as we are preparing for the Consecration. So let us avoid every sort of sin however small it is and grow in all virtues especially humility, with a pure heart. Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit and from that moment Jesus is also present in her with the H. Spirit, in their presence Father too without doubt. So when we consecrate ourselves we are entrusted to the Holy Spirit and we are purified and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Such souls will never get lost- says Mother Mary. Through her faith and her acceptance of God's plan about her, she teaches us to be a true image of God, clear and simple, pure and true, without any masks and hypocrisy! From her we will learn to say “Yes” to Him for which we have to come out of our ‘Comfort zone’. That when Jesus comes He may find our hearts free and will establish his abode in us. Then it will be Christmas! He is 'EMANUEL ie; God with us!. Through our consecration, may Mother Mary help each one of us, to be always united with Jesus as the ‘United Hearts of Mary and Jesus’.**

**Wishing you a fruitful Advent Season and a Joyful Christmas greetings and asking God’s blessings on each one of you,**

** Yours affectionately,**

**Sr.Valsamma Pandyalackal**

**1st December, 2017**