

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum
Kolkata 700 028**



Cir/RE/06/12/2015

05 December 2015

Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings to you !

“Merciful like the Father” Lk.6:36 is an invitation for all of us during this year of mercy. On 13 March 2015, Pope Francis, ‘Pope of Mercy’ announced a special jubilee on the theme of mercy to be held from 8 December 2015 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception until 20 November 2016 – Feast of Christ the King. The Pope has formally convoked the holy year through the Papal Bull of induction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy) on 11 April 2015. He also called Jesus “the Living Face of the Mercy of the Father.” Pope Francis is calling for a Year of Mercy in the Church so that we can deepen our confidence in God’s love for us. He wants this love to overflow into our relationships with others. “How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God. May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst.”

Pope Francis will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. 8 December is rich in meaning in the history of the church. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. With the Council, the church entered a new phase of her history. St. John XXIII when, opening the Council, indicated the path to follow: “Now bride of Christ wishes to use medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity...” When we are convinced of God’s love and mercy for us, we become much more loving, patient, forgiving and merciful with others. We need to present our wounds to the Lord, who can understand our pain because He also suffered rejection, hurt, abandonment and betrayal. Only when we experience mercy and goodness we can give to others. Our hearts will be healed when we feel loved by God. Let us not lose this precious time the Church offers us. When we are healed of our wounds we can find God’s love and mercy coming to us through people in our lives. If we feel loved by God, God’s love will flow through us and we will be able to show our love to others. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness from others in order to experience forgiveness from God, since it is the starting point towards experiencing loving mercy from God.

Pope Francis has composed a special prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the prayer, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, “with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.” Let us join Pope Francis to say this prayer so that we may be renewed ourselves, ‘broadening our vision to be missionaries of hope and joy’ to make our communities a home.

Pope Francis has laid out few conditions for obtaining the jubilee Indulgence in a 1 September 2015 letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. He said it was his “wish that the jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.”

Dear Sisters let us make use of every opportunity to obtain jubilee indulgence and let us propagate it to others so that they too may experience the mercy of God. I would like to invite all of you to set some time to read the Papal Bull of induction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy).

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Very soon we will be celebrating solemnity of Immaculate Conception of Mary, which is very dear to all of us. While we thank God for the gift of Mary let us revive our love for Mary Immaculate. The purpose of this grace was given to Mary, to be born, without original sin, is not for the glorification of Mary, but for the salvation of humanity. We are invited to reflect on the graces that we have received – the gift of faith, the Word of God, the Sacraments and various abilities and opportunities and life itself. Remembering St. Paul’s words that every gift that is given to us, “comes from the Father of light”, and is given for the glory of God and for fulfilling God’s purpose in our life.

Happy Feast to all of you dear Sisters!

Communications:

Renewed Constitutions

We are happy to receive the second Edition of the Constitutions and Regulations of the FMA. In an atmosphere of prayer it was handed over to the Animators and economers of the communities on 29 November 2015. Rest of you will receive it on 8 December 2015, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception during a moment of prayer. Let us receive it with gratitude so as to live our life to make our communities “houses of the love of God” and live the ‘Spirit of the Origins’.

Retreats

The **Annual Retreat of the Animators** will be held at Auxilium, Kurseong from 08 - 15 March 2016. Fr. Biji Thomas Vattamala SDB has very willingly consented to preach the Retreat. It will be followed by a day of Seminar and Meeting.

The Animators of the distant communities are requested to arrive at the venue on 7 March 2016 and can leave on 18 March 2016.

The **Annual Retreat of the Sisters** at Auxilium Kurseong will be held from 31 May - 7 June, 2016. It will be followed by a day of Seminar. Rev. Fr. Varghese Chittilappilly SDB will preach the Retreat.

Sisters are requested to arrive at the venue on 30 May 2016 and can leave on 09 June 2016.

Let us send prayers ahead for the preachers and the participants of these two Retreats.

Meetings & Courses

The first TEAM MEET of the year 2016 will be held at Auxilium Dum Dum from 24 - 27 January 2016. Team members are requested to arrive on 23 January by evening.

I will leave for Rome on 15 December 2015 to participate in an Italian refresher course and New Provincial's Course and will return on 29 January 2016. Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the vice Provincial will see to the normal running of the Province.

Sincere gratitude to:

- Sr. Nirmala Tigga and the Sisters of Geyzing community for preparing the Novena of Mary Immaculate. May God bless you all.
- Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and Sisters of Dum Dum community for hosting Kolkata Zone Catechetical meet on 11 November 2015. 125 students from Kolkata zone consisting of Dum Dum, Barasat, and Bandel participated in it. Thank you dear Srs. Esther Rani Abraham, Basanti Ekka and other collaborators for helping our young people to grow in their faith. May God reward you.
- Thanks to the communities who have already sent answers to the Second set of questionnaire on Acts of GC XXIII.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ To Rev. Fr. Jayapalan Raphael the Provincial and the Confreres of Chennai Province for the loss of Fr. Rosario Krishnaraj who went to receive his eternal reward on 14 November 2015.
- ✠ To Rev. Fr. Nirmol Gomes the Provincial and the Confreres of Kolkata Province at the passing away of Bro. Ambrose Nellikkal on 3 December 2015

Prayers Requested:

- For our sisters of Chennai Province and the victims of the flood

We have begun our preparation for Christmas, a mystery revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's gift to the humanity. We rejoice at the birth of Jesus, "A child is born to us, a Son is given to us" Is 9:5. Jesus is the visible image of the invincible God, the human face of God. He is the revealer and the revelation of God's love. Jesus is reason for the celebration of Christmas. Jesus came and continues to come in each of our lives to give us light and meaning, purpose and goodness, beauty and truth. "For God so loved the world that he gave us His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but may have eternal life" John 3:6.

Dear sisters, as we celebrate Christmas let us be messengers of goodness and beauty and initiators of God's love, as we hold the Divine Love in our hands.

Wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2016.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath
(Provincial)



**Happy
Christmas**