

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/08/02/2016

12 February 2016

Dearest Sisters,

I begin my letter wishing you all a fervent Lenten pilgrimage. We have entered into a special season of grace. This year the Lent is very special as we are in the Year of Mercy because our God is rich in mercy and full of graciousness. "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.... (Ps 103:8).



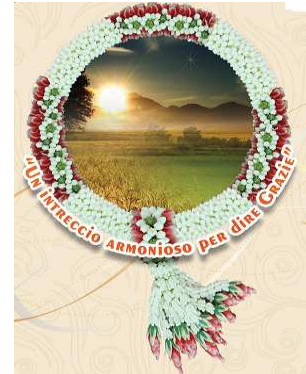
The theme of Pope Francis Message for Lent is "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13) - The works of mercy on the road of the Jubilee. He begins his message giving practical point on how to live the season of Lent. In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that "the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy" (Misericordiae Vultus, 17). By calling for an attentive listening to the Word of God and encouraging the initiative "24 Hours for the Lord", I sought to stress the primacy of prayerful listening to God's word, especially his prophetic word. (Message by Pope Francis for Lent 2016)

Pope Francis in his first "Keep Lent" message to the youth of Pompeii says, "When we do something good, sometimes we are tempted to seek praise and to be rewarded: that's human glory. But it's a false reward because it makes us focus on what others think of us. Jesus asks us to do good for the sake of good. He asks us to feel we are under the watchful gaze of our Heavenly Father at all times and to live in relationship with Him – not in relationship with the opinion of others. Let us do what we can, in prayer, in sacrifice, and in acts of charity, humbly before God. This way we will be worthy of God the Father's reward"

Dear Sisters, as we have taken up this journey of conversion let us cloth ourselves with the work of Mercy. Let us transform ourselves by the Encounter, so that together with the young people we can become Missionaries of Hope and Joy (GC XXIII).

Communications:

- Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, the Vicar General has sent out the letter announcing about the celebration of the 'Feast of Gratitude' on 26 April 2016. It will be held in Thailand Province of St. Mary Mazzarello, Sam Phran The theme is: **“Like a garland, united in diversity, let us weave with joy and hope the offer of life and mission”**. Very soon we will be getting the details of the celebration in English. Let us prepare ourselves with prayer for this great family event.



- A new book titled “The Name of God is Mercy” is released by Pope Francis. In which Holy Father reveals his vision of God’s mercy in a series of interviews. At the heart of his every single word we can summarize it as MERCY. In the very first mass he celebrated Pope said: “The message of Jesus is mercy... it is the Lord’s strongest message.” As we have crossed the threshold of the Year of Mercy I invite all of you to nourish ourselves by reading the various books on the ‘Year of Mercy’
- All the Animators of the communities and the Provincial Councilors of the Guwahati Province commenced their annual retreat at Bandel from February 10-17, 2016. It is preached by Fr. Biji Thomas Vattamala SDB. Let us support them with our prayers and entrust our sisters to the maternal assistance of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Happy Voyage. I thank Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil and the Community for making all the arrangement and making it feasible for the sisters to have a fruitful retreat.

Meetings and Seminars

- Sr. Alitricce Warjiri will be attending an intensive certificated course on the Spirituality of Consecrated life for three months from 1st April - 30 June 2016 at Little way Carmelite Spirituality Center, Kokar, Ranchi
- The second phase of the Second Novitiate will be held at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi from 14 April 2016 - 14 May 2016. All the participants are requested to arrive on 13th April. Sr. Rosalia Tirkey will coordinate the programme.
- The retreat for the Postulants, Novices and the junior sisters will be held from 15 – 22 May 2016. It will be preached by Rev. Fr. Shilanand Kerketta SDB. The retreatants are requested to arrive on 15th May in the morning.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ➔ To the community of "Nirmala Niketan" Jaigaon for preparing the Novena in preparation for the solemnity of St. John Bosco
- ➔ To the Team Members for preparing the Province project, Annual Programme, the Sector wise Project and animation programme for the Province for the coming year with much dedication, enthusiasm and love.
- ➔ To the community of Dum Dum for the hospitality offered for the Team members from 23 – 26 January 2016 and for the Education, Media and Youth Pastoral Sectors of FMA PCI, joint Annual Meet which was held from January 28-29, 2016. 22 sisters from all the Provinces participated in it.
- ➔ To the Education Sector for the Thrust of the Year for the Schools “Delve into a deep encounter with God and oneself, to be a messenger of mercy”.
- ➔ To all the communities who have already sent the Lenten practices
- ➔ Thanks to the communities who have sent answers to the 4th set of questionnaire on Acts of GC XXIII.

Congratulations to:

To Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB, the newly appointed Provincial of Hyderabad Province. We support him with our prayers for the animation of the Province according to the charism and style of Don Bosco.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ Sr. Susanna Korah at the demise of her cousin Mrs. Pennamma on 12th January 2016
- ✠ Sr. Esther Rani Abraham at the passing away of her uncle Mr. Savarimuthu on 16th January 2016
- ✠ Sr. Catherine Das at the loss of her sister- in-law Mrs. Beena Das on 4th February 2016.
- ✠ Sr. Cecilia Kollappally at the demise of eldest sister Sr. Elizabeth on 5th February 2016.
- ✠ Sr. Angela Kerketta at the passing away of her beloved father Mr. Silvanus on 12th February 2016

Prayers Requested:

- For Sr. Rose Simon who is critically ill
- For the sick and elderly sisters of our Province who are undergoing treatment
- For the parents of our sisters who are sick

Let us entrust all of them to the mercy of God, so that the Divine physician may touch and heal them because He Himself have said, "I am the God who heals you" (Ex 15:26)

As we have begun our Lenten pilgrimage once again wish you all a fervent continuation season of Lent so that we can rise with Jesus with the hope and joy of the Risen Lord. Let us ask the Merciful Father, to walk with us, to nourish us with His Word and Sacraments. Let us find Him in moments of prayer. May He give us the grace to rise above our human weakness to leave the old ways behind and to embrace the new life of grace.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)