

# 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/10/05/2016

08 May 2016

Dear Sisters,

**Loving greetings from Provincial House Dum Dum !**

We have just entered the month of May, traditionally considered the Month of Mary, which has a very special significance for us Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The liturgical celebrations of St. Dominic Savio, St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello and the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians occurring in this month give it a special Salesian colour. In our endeavours with the young people let us take great interest in cultivating in them a filial devotion to Mary remembering that one who love will never be lost.

## **Pentecost**

The church celebrates feast of Pentecost, marking the coming of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church. Pentecost is not an independent feast; it is the finale to Easter. It is an event confirming God's desire to dwell among us which began with Incarnation of Jesus. It supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai. On this day, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, Christ's mission was accomplished, and the New Covenant was inaugurated. As we prepare ourselves for this great feast let us pray for an out pouring of the Spirit in each of us and to fill us with gifts and fruits. May we all be empowered by His power making us bold and courages FMA to work for the spread of God's Kingdom.

## **Feast of St. Mary Mazzarello**

The peasant girl of Mornese became the Mother of a congregation of Sisters that today covers the globe and numbers thousands. On that religious body of self-sacrificing souls is stamped the indelible character of Mother Mazzarello's humility and in each one of the Sisters she lives again and continues her apostolate for the souls of girls.

In 1936, Pope Pius XI, proclaiming the heroic nature of Mother Mazzarello's virtues, aptly summarized her remarkable life thus: "Here is a woman of simplicity, extreme simplicity - a simplicity as pure as that of the simple elements, as simple and

unmixed as gold without alloy !. The characteristic mark of Mary Mazzarello is her humility, a profound consciousness and continual remembrance of a lowly birth, a plain way of life, characterized by self denial and sacrifice. She recognized in it the sanctifying will of God and accepted it lovingly, transforming it into prayer. Every duty was an appointment with God for her. Within the Salesian Family, St. Mary Domenica stands out for her strength of mind and heart, deep spirituality, great capacity to build a sense of community among her sisters, and commitment to help young girls grow toward the fullness of life. As we celebrate the feast our Mother and foundress ,let us gratefully praise and thank God for the gift of Mary Mazzarello. She has traced the way for us, she has left us a rich legacy of the “Spirit of Mornese” and she ask of us to walk faithfully and creatively, so that we live our FMA vocation with commitment and dedication following in her footsteps becoming missionaries of Hope and Joy.

### **Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians**

Pius VII, attributing great victory of the Church over the Revolution to the powerful intercession of Mary Most Holy, wanted to show his gratitude by means of establishing a feast day of universal scope dedicated to the beautiful Marian invocation, Our Lady Help of Christians. Therefore, May the 24<sup>th</sup> became her feast day, in thanksgiving for the Holy Father’s happy return to Rome. Such invocation took a new turn in the Catholic world due to the action of one of the greatest saints of modern times: Saint John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Society and of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The companions of Saint John Bosco noticed that, from 1860, he began to invoke the Most Holy Virgin under the title of Mary Help of Christians, ***Maria Auxilium Christianorum***.

In December of 1862, the Saint made a resolution to build a church dedicated to that invocation. And he declared, on that occasion: ***"To the Virgin Most Holy whom we desire to honor with the title of 'Help of Christians'; the times we are in are so challenging that we truly need the Most Holy Virgin to help us in preserving and defending the Christian Faith in every part of the world and it will be the mother church of our future Society and the center from where all our works will radiate in behalf of the youth."***

Six years after, on May 21, 1868, the magnificent Church of Mary Help of Christians was solemnly consecrated in Turin by the Archbishop of the city. The dream of Saint John Bosco became a reality. Since then, this special devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians has spread throughout the world, owing in great measure to the work of the Salesian Congregation. While we celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians which is very dear to the heart of every FMA, for many of us will have special significance as it reminds us of our First Profession. In addition, the celebrations of the Professions, Renewals, and Perpetual Professions, and the entry of new novices into their respective phases of formation also remind us of our call to fidelity and commitment.

Article 4 & 44 of our Constitutions gives us a beautiful summary of Mary's role in the life of every FMA. "Mary, Mother of God, and of the Church is actively present in our lives and in the history of our Institute. Trusting in Don Bosco's words "It is Mary who guides us", we cultivate a grateful and trusting love for her. In Mary, the Immaculate Help of Christians we contemplate the fullness of her self-giving to God and neighbor. We strive to make her dispositions of Faith, Hope and Charity and her perfect union with Christ our own. We imitate her openness to God's Word to live as she did. We open our hearts to the joys humility of the Magnificat to be helpers like her and commit ourselves to pass on this love to the young people. Let us be aware of Mary's presence in our lives and entrust ourselves daily to her motherly care and be a true and worthy daughter of Mary".

### **New Apostolic Exhortation - Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Pope Francis' officially released the new Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation entitled 'Amoris Laetitia' or The Joy of Love, on the family. This document that reflects on family life and affirms the Church's teaching that stable families are the building blocks of a healthy society and a place where children learn to love, respect and interact with others. But at the same time, the text warns against idealizing the many challenges facing family life, urging Catholics to care for, rather than condemning, those lives do not reflect the teaching of the Church. Let us make use of the document to fructify our family apostolate.

### **Communications:**

#### **Transfers**

I would like to express my thanks to you dear sisters for your availability and generosity in accepting the obedience with a spirit of faith and confidence in the Lord. Let us remember the words of Jeremiah and place our complete trust in the One who has called us for His mission. "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

**The sisters who are on transfer are requested to be in their own respective communities latest by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

The Community Animators are requested to send the Community Evaluation, Community Project, Sector wise project and Chronicle with the sisters who will be coming for the Annual Retreat at Auxilium Kurseong.

## **Appointment of Animators and Councillors**

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the animators for 2016 – 2019.

### **For the First Term**

- Sr. Dorothy Torcato - Auxilium Convent, Kurseong
- Sr. Margret Ghosh - Mazzarello Home, Monsada
- Sr. Maria Pettayil - Holy Child Auxilium, New Delhi - Vasant Vihar

### **For the Second Term**

- Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil - Auxilium Convent, Bandel
- Sr. Gracy Parekattil - Auxilium Snehalaya, Palam Gaon
- Sr. Nirmala Tigga - St. Mary's, Geyzing
- Sr. Teresa Vettuvazhilyil - Auxilium Convent, New Chumta

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the members of the Provincial Council for 2016 – 2019.

- Sr. Innocencia Jojo - First Term
- Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil - Second Term

We thank these sisters for their availability and generosity for shouldering the responsibility of animation. Let us support them with our prayers so that they may be guided by the Spirit and accompanied by our Blessed Mother.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Anna Kallirikumkalayil, Sr. Teresa Ruben Sagayamary and Sr. Mary Ann Abraham for their loving service of animation to the communities of Monsada, Vasant Vihar and Kurseong respectively. May God bless and reward you with His copious blessings.

My heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Nirmala Tigga for her valuable contribution for the animation of the Province with generosity and dedication. May God bless you.

## **Congratulations!**

- To our 12 Sisters, Sr. Alma Tirkey, Sr. Anand Kumari Tirkey, Sr. Anima Minj, Sr. Aruna Arockia Paulsamy, Sr. Bridgit Chettri, Sr. Julita Kujur, Sr. Kishori Minj, Sr. Medlin Nirmala Lakra, Sr. Paulina Toppo, Sr. Pramila Ekka, Sr. Premika Tirkey, Sr. Shradha Kispotta who will be making their Perpetual Profession on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at St. John Bosco Parish, Jumaikela. Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta, the Bishop of Jashpur will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration at 6.00 am.
- To our postulants Shashikanta Xalxo, Salomi Bhuinya who will be entering into the Novitiate.

- To our Junior Sisters who will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart Novitiate - Ranchi, Provincial House- Guwahati, Auxilium Kurseong and Auxilium Barasat.

Let us thank God for the gift of our sisters and pray for them so that they may become cheerful and generous givers and messengers of God's merciful love.

- To all our sisters, teachers and students of all the schools for the excellent result of ICSE and ISC examinations. The Lord has blessed your coupled and committed effort.

## **Welcome Back**

We extend a warm welcome back to Srs. Mary John and Deepa Minj who will return to the Province on 2<sup>nd</sup> July after completing the Salesian Spirituality Course. We wish them God's blessings and fruitfulness of their new mission with much experience at the centre and the fruit of their studies.

## **Students for higher studies**

Sr. Basanti Ekka will go to Auxilium College, Katpadi to pursue her post-graduation studies in Chemistry. We wish her all the best for her studies and we thank Sr. Magnificat and the Sisters of INM for accommodating her.

## **Seminars**

Srs. Jenita Savarimuthu and Anima Xalxo participated in the AMRAT Coordinators meet held at Bellefonte, Shillong from 21-22 April 2016.

## **Sincere gratitude:**

- To the community of Auxilium- Kurseong for the Novena to St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello
- Sr. Stella Potteparambil and for the community of Barasat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day
- To the community of Mazzarello Home - Monsada for the Novena to Mary Help of Christians.

## **Heartfelt Condolences to:**

- ✠ To the Provincial Fr. Albert Johnson and the confreres of Tiruchy Province at the demise of dear Fr. Packiaraj Rayan on 15th April 2016.
- ✠ To the Provincial Sr. Crescentia D'Almada and the sisters of Bangalore Province at the demise of Sr. Mercy Mathew, on 16th April 2016.

- ✠ To Sr. Cordula Kullu at demise of her sister Ms. Nilima Kullu on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- ✠ To Sr. Teresa Xalxo at the passing away of her cousin Mrs. Cecilia Toppo on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

I wish you all a very Happy Feast of St. Mary Mazzarello and Mary Help of Christians. During this Year of Mercy let the sweetness of our Blessed Mother, the Help of Christians watch over us, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA  
(Provincial)