

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**



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Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum!

I take this occasion to wish you all a very fervent month of the Holy Rosary. The Holy Scriptures reveal to us that after the Blessed Virgin Mary had visited her cousin Elizabeth, she recited the Magnificat. One prophetic verse in that prayer still echoes today, "Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." [Lk. 1:48]. The Holy Rosary fulfils the prophecy of those words, that the Blessed Virgin Mary shall be called blessed today as much as she was called blessed in the days that followed the glorious birth of our Lord. The Rosary involves meditation on the mysteries surrounding the lives of Our Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary engages our thoughts, our imagination, our emotions and our desire. "Prayed in an authentic way, not in a superficial way, the Rosary indeed brings peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the heart of each Ave Maria. Let this good habit never stop. Let it continue even with greater zeal, that, at the school of Mary, the lamp of faith may shine ever more brightly in the heart of Christians and in their homes." (Benedict XVI)

Don Bosco, the Friend of Youth, recommended the Rosary as a sure means towards spiritual growth. An ardent devotee of Mary, he advised parents, educators and young people to be devoted to Mary and invited them to daily recitation of the Holy Rosary. Let us dear sisters renew our devotion to this pious practice and do all what we can to cultivate this devotion in our young people and in their families. Let us join the neighborhood families for the recitation of the Rosary especially during this month. Through this spiritual devotion, Our Lady assures the world that evil shall be overcome and that there will be a time of peace.

World Mission Day

Holy Father Pope Francis in his message for the World Mission Day states: The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the

message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love. She "is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12) and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old. The mandate of the Gospel to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (*Mt 28:19-20*) has not ceased; rather this command commits all of us, in the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary "impulse", as I noted in my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey His call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (20). Let us try to follow the suggestions given by our mission sector to make this message of the Holy Father become a reality.

Feast of St. Teresa of Avila

In the lives of the saints God shows himself to us. He speaks to us through them. On 15th October we honor Saint Teresa of Avila, Patroness of our Institute. One of the key hallmarks of the spiritual heights of Saint Teresa of Avila is the importance of prayer. Even though she struggled for many years she teaches us this basic but indispensable spiritual truth: Perseverance in prayer. Meditate upon her immortal words of wisdom and memorize: "*We must have a determined determination never to give up prayer.*" Jesus taught us this supremely important truth in the parable of the insistent widow and the Judge. This widow, due to her persistent and tenacious insistence finally gained the assistance of this cold-hearted Judge. (*Lk 18:1-8*). St. Teresa insists that we must never give up in prayer. What air is to the lungs, is prayer to the soul. Healthy lungs need constant and pure air; healthy soul must be constantly breathing through prayer- the oxygen of the soul! Saint Teresa of Avila gives us one of the classical definitions of prayer in the history of Catholicism. "*Prayer is nothing more than spending a long time alone with the one who I know loves me.*" By spending time with Jesus, the Son of God made man and entering into colloquy with Him is a sure path to growth in prayer.

Blessed Don Michael Rua

Michael Rua was born in Turin in Italy, in a poverty-stricken neighborhood on the outskirts of the city of Turin. He was the youngest of the nine children of Giovanni Battista and Giovanna Maria Rua. The father, who was the supervisor of a weapons' factory in the city, died on 2 August 1845. He then lived with his widowed mother in their apartment in the factory which she was able to keep, and which then employed her. He came to the oratory in 1852. Don Rua was the most faithful, and therefore

the most humble and the most valiant of the sons of Don Bosco. At the age of 26, Don Rua served as the Rector of Mirabello, the Society's first house outside of Turin then returned to Turin to be Vice Rector at Valdocco, and manager of the *Letture Cattoliche*. He was involved in the formation of the candidates to the Society, and was the director of our Sisters. Rua was a constant companion of Don Bosco on his journeys, and became the Vicar of the Society in 1865. At the explicit request of Don Bosco, in 1884 Pope Leo XIII designated him to be Don Bosco's successor and confirmed him as Rector Major in 1888, after Don Bosco's death.

He was nicknamed "The Living Rule" because of his austere fidelity. Don Rua was also known for his fatherly approach and thoughtfulness. As the numbers of members and communities increased he sent Salesians all over the world, showing special care for the missionary expeditions. The greatness of Don Rua can be attributed to his sanctity, his contribution to the growth of Congregation and above all to his having assimilated the spirit of Don Bosco. His heroic example is a perfect testimony to the Salesian holiness.

Communications:

The Catholic Church in India will observe Sunday October 16, as a day of prayer for the Country. This was announced by Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI). The head of the Indian Church wants all bishops, parish priests, religious and lay leaders to conduct special liturgies and prayers for the nation on that day. He has invited all Indians to join the Catholics to pray for India. "May every place of worship chime with prayers for our beloved nation, its leaders and its people," Let us join the entire church in India to pray for peace and unity in our country.

Second year novice Binita Bara will have her Community experience at Auxilium - Kalyani in the month of October – November 2016.

Sr. Prema Lourdu Francis, Sr. Sandhya Sudha Minj, Sr. Ongmit Ermina Lepcha, Sr. Sosan Alma Minj will partake in the Inter Province Second Novitiate - first phase which will be held from 15th November - 15th December 2016 at Yercaud, Tamil Nadu.

Meeting and Retreats

✚ I will be leaving on 10th October for the Asia - Oceania Provincials' Retreat to be held at Bangkok, Thailand from 11th – 18th October 2016. The Retreat will be followed by a meeting of the Provincials with Mother Yvonne Reungoat. I will be back in the Province on 23 October 2016. In my absence kindly refer to

Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Vice Provincial for important matters. Do keep us, the retreatants in your prayers and I assure you of my prayers.

- ✚ I will be participating in the Annual Meeting of BRBC - CRI- CDP of the West Bengal and Sikkim Region to be held from 27th – 29th October 2016 at Jalpaiuri. The theme of this year's meeting is: 'The Role of the Catholic Church in promoting peace in Bengal.'
- ✚ Sr. Anand Tirkey, Sr. Alma Bilung and 2 teachers from Auxilium Dum are participating in the Counselors' Training Course organized by NDF at Manivakkam from October 7 - 10, 2016
- ✚ The Meeting of the Animators & Economers will be held at Auxilium Dum Dum from 27 – 29 January 2017. Arrival will be on 27 January before lunch and the departure on 29 after 3.00 pm
- ✚ The retreat for the Sisters' will be held at Auxilium Bandel from 28 December 2016 – 04 January 2017. It will be preached by Rev. Fr. James Mathew SDB. This will be followed by two days of meetings. All are requested to arrive on 28th December 2016 and the departure will be on 6th January 2017 after the lunch.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ➔ Sr. Elizabeth Makil and the community of Park Circus for the 7th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- ➔ Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil, the media coordinator of the Province and to Sr. Shanti Tirkey for conducting the Media Seminar which was held at Auxilium Convent, Bandel from 30 September - 02 October 2016 and to the community of Auxilium Bandel for hosting the same
- ➔ Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Vice provincial and the Team members of Kolkata zone for planning meticulously for the Provincial Community Day and the Golden jubilee celebration of Sr. Elizabeth Joseph.
- ➔ Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and the community of Auxilium Dum Dum for hosting the Provincial community day and the Golden jubilee celebration of Sr. Elizabeth Joseph, the transmission of FMA PCI 2016 and the Child Protection Policy Seminar.
- ➔ Sr. Stella Potteparambil, the coordinator of Education and Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, the coordinator of Social Ministry of the Province for organizing one and half day seminar for Animators' and sisters in charge of the schools.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- † Sr. Stella Potteparambil at the demise of her nephew Clinto, in a tragic car accident on 25th September 2016.
- † Sr. Annie Theyattil at the passing away of her maternal aunt Mrs. Mariakutty on 30th September 2016.
- † Sr. Esther Rani Abraham and the demise of her maternal uncle Mr. Rayappan in a bike accident on 30th September 2016
- † Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas and the sisters of Mumbai Province at the loss of Sr. Philo D'Souza on 4th October 2016.
- † Srs. Prisca and Prislia Bara at the death of their cousin sister Ms. Anjali on 6th October 2016
- † Provincial Sr. Margarita and the sisters of Venezuela at the demise of Sr. Maria de los Angeles Contreras, who was General Councilor for the Salesian Family on October 5, 2016 in Venezuela.

I would like to conclude my letter quoting the words of Don Bosco “Be devoted to Mary Most Holy; frequently call on her. Never was it known that anyone who trustingly had recourse to her was not promptly heard.”

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)

