

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/21/04/2017

10 April 2017

Dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum !

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Lk 19:38), the crowd of Jerusalem exclaimed joyfully as they welcomed Jesus. We have made that enthusiasm our own: by waving our olive and palm branches we have expressed our praise and our joy, our desire to receive Jesus who comes to us. Just as He entered Jerusalem, so He desires to enter our cities, our communities and our lives. As He did in the Gospel, riding on a donkey, so too He comes to us in humility; He comes "in the name of the Lord". Through the power of His divine love He forgives our sins and reconciles us to the Father and with our neighbor and ourselves.

Thus we enter into the most holy and best liturgical days of the year. During these days, the Church celebrates the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, the most important mysteries of our faith, in truth, the heart of our faith is the Paschal Mystery. The salvation history leads up to and goes forth from these saving events. As His faithful disciples, let our thoughts and longings during these days be fixed on Him, as He enters Jerusalem, is betrayed, captured, scourged, crowned with thorns, and finally crucified. By celebrating them in community, we make them present today and learn again, in a new way, the reality of our Risen Lord alive in our midst. Let our lives become total, complete and irrevocable with Risen Lord as He passes through the portals of death to the new life, life that has no end, life over which death has no power. We by our consecrated life have set out on this life long journey of being transformed, renewed and rejuvenated by the encounter of the Risen Lord and become Prophetic witness of His Resurrection. We should be like Mary Magdalene who got up early in the morning still dark, goes to the tomb to look for Jesus. Her great love for Jesus drew her to the tomb with the hope of anointing Him but to her surprise she finds the stone being moved away and sees the empty tomb. This led her frantically to look for him all over. Finally the Risen Jesus gives her the joy recognizing Him as He calls her by name. While she wants to cling to Him He commands her to go and tell the disciples that He is Risen. So the outcome of seeking God is finding Him and proclaiming Him to others. Dear Sisters, this is what we should also be doing. Great thirst and ardent desire to meet the Risen Lord and then to go and proclaim that Jesus is Risen thus becoming missionaries of Hope and Joy to especially to the young people. ***I wish each one of you dear sisters the Joy, Peace and Love of Easter !***

Feast of the Divine Mercy



The feast emerges from the depths of the Lord's mercy and the Lord pours out a whole ocean of graces – upon souls who approach the fount of His Mercy. On this day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to the Lord, even though its sins be as scarlet. The mercy of the Lord is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity (Diary 699). The Lord Jesus calls out to you, from His Merciful Heart, “Come to the feast and Trust even more!” Receive the gifts and grace of Divine Mercy Sunday with thanksgiving, and then share them with others, so that they too may experience the fulfillment of their deepest desires of their hearts. Tell them to trust in Jesus even more! St. Faustina “the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time” recorded the words of the Lord about

His desire for the salvation of souls and His desire for our holiness: *“How very much I desire the salvation of souls! My dearest secretary, write that I want to pour My Divine Life into human souls and to sanctify them if only they were willing to accept My grace. The greatest sinners would achieve great sanctity, if only they would Trust in My Mercy....”* (Diary 1784).

World Feast of Gratitude

During this past month the communities have been preparing spiritually to celebrate the World Feast of Gratitude, to express our thanks to God for the gift of our Mother General who is the bond of communion and centre of unity. This year it will be celebrated in Africa, at Cotonou, in the Western Province of the Mother of God. The theme for the occasion proposed to us by the Sisters of the Province is “With an Oratorian heart in the Educating Community, with daring we bring the joy of the Gospel to the young.” It is an invitation to us as FMA to assume an Oratorian heart as a criterion of renewal for our presence and our communities. It is an exhortation for us to relive once again the fervor and enthusiasm of the *Da mihi Animas cetera tolle* of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. This will be the best gift we can offer to our beloved Mother General on this great Feast of Gratitude. As we send our greetings of Thanks and Love, let us also assure her of our prayers in abundance that the Lord will accompany her in her mission of leading the sisters into Salesian Sanctity.

Summer Camps

The holidays will be around by the second week of May in most of our educational centres. Our charism is basically our being with young. It means being among them, meeting with them in our daily lives, reawakening in them a sense of God and inspiring them to set their gaze on things above. I request the animators of the

communities to plan together with the sisters a short summer programme especially for the Catholic students of our schools in order to offer them better opportunities to experience God's tangible love for them. Through this programme we will also be able to identify vocationable candidates. Send prayers ahead so that many may be inspired to come and enjoy the programme. Please do send me a short report of the programme with some relevant photographs.

Communications

Hearty welcome

We are happy to have our Mother General in our mother land who is visiting the Province of Shillong and Guwahati from 3rd - 17th April 2017. Let us support her with our prayers especially as we are preparing for the World feast of Gratitude.

We cordially extend our warm welcome to Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil who will be arriving on 13th April in our Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum. She will be spending few days with us. Let us sustain her with our prayers for the completion of her official work.



Sincere appreciation and Thanks

Appointment of Animators and Councillors

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the animators for 2017 – 2020.

For the First Term

Sr. Chirammal Philomena	- CALCUTTA Gobra "Maria Ausiliatrice"
Sr. D' Souza Lily	- RANCHI "S. Maria D. Mazzarello"
Sr. Dung Dung Mary Maxima	- MIRIK "Maria Immacolata"
Sr. Ekka Mary	- JUMAIKELA "B. Laura Vicuna"
Sr. Kureekattu Rose	- JAIGAON "Maria Immacolata"
Sr. Pulickathadathil Teresa	- NEW DELHI R.K.Puram "Maria Bambina"

For the Second Term

Sr. Adampakallel Teresa	- CALCUTTA Dum Dum "Maria Ausiliatrice"
Sr. Phawa Aquila	- KATHMANDU Thecho (Nepal) "Maria Ausiliatrice"
Sr. Potteparambil Rose Stella	- BARASAT "Maria Ausiliatrice"

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment of Sr. Adampakallel Teresa as Vice Provincial for a second Term and Sr. Parekattil Gracy as Provincial Councillor for a First Term.

We express our gratitude to 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 inspired by our Blessed Mother who is the teacher of our Institute.

My sincere word of appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Cecilia Kollappally, Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel and Sr. Francesca Ekka for their generous and committed service of animation in the communities of Mirik, R.K. Puram and Gobra respectively. May God bless and reward you with His bountiful blessings.

My deepest thanks to Sr. Annie Theyattil for her valuable contribution for the animation of the Province with generosity and commitment. May God bless you all.



Congratulations!

- To our Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis, Sr. Sandhya Sudha Minj and Sr. Sosan Alma Minj who will be making their Perpetual Profession on 24th May 2017 at Mazzarello Convent Ranchi. Rt. Rev. Telesphore Bilung, auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Ranchi, will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration at 9.30 am.
- To our Novice Binita Bara who will be making her first profession on 24th May 2017 at Mazzarello Convent Ranchi.
- To our postulants Joselin Xalxo and Priyanka Toppo who will be entering into the Novitiate.
- To our Junior Sisters who will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart Novitiate – Ranchi and St. Mary's Geyzing.
We raise a hymn of gratitude to God for the gift of our sisters and pray for them so that they may become Missionaries of Hope and Joy to the young people.

Higher studies

Sr. Bridgit Chettri will be doing the Spirituality course at Casa Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. We assure her our prayerful support and an enriching time at the centre of the Institute.

Project Mornese

Srs. Cordula Kullu and Inocencia Jojo will be participating in the 'Project Mornese' for the formators and community animators. It will be held from 1st – 30th September 2017 in Italy. I wish them a fruitful and enriching experience during their pilgrimage.

Seminar

Sr. Nirmala Tigga will be participating in the Seminar for Missionary Animation and Formation for Asia organized by the Mission Sector, at Sam Phran – Thailand from 13th - 20th August 2017. We wish her an enriching experience.

Second Novitiate - II phase

Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis, Sr. Sandhya Sudha Minj, Sr. Sosan Alma Minj and Sr. Eugenia Bareh (INS) will be commence their second phase of the second Novitiate on 17th April 2017. Let us support them with our prayers.

Retreats

25 sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 17 -24 May 2017 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi. It will be followed Renewal, Vestition, 1st profession and Perpetual Profession. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Deepak Toppo SJ.

39 Sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 27 May – 3 June 2017 at Auxilium – Kurseong. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Alex Kalathikattil SDB. It will be followed by two days of seminars on Amoris Laetitia, Salesian Youth Spirituality, and Child Protection Policy animated by the various sectors of the Province.

Let us send our prayers ahead for the outpouring of the Holy on the preachers and the retreatants.

Mission Sector - Rome

I am sure all of you received the letter of Sr. Alaide Deretti, Councilor for the Missions dated on 14 April 2017. I quote “In remembering Sr. Angela Vallese, I invite every Province to think about and discern together with the Sisters, **a prophetic gesture to be assumed** by the whole Provincial community on November 14, 2017. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds and our hearts and make them available to listen to what He Himself will suggest. *I would be pleased to receive from every Province in the coming months, the prophetic gesture chosen and the meaningful repercussion in every community and in the heart of all the FMA to revive in the Institute, the missionary ardor of the beginnings and arouse new vocations for the mission ad gentes*”. I request all the communities to choose a prophetic gesture that will revive the missionary ardor in our community and send it to the Provincial Office at the earliest.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ➡ Sr. Rosina Thomas and the community of “Auxilium” Kalyani for the 12th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- ➡ Sr. Dorothy Torcato and the community of Kurseong for hosting the retreat from 08 – 15 March 2017 and Seminar from 17 – 19 March 2017 on Spiritual Direction for the Animators of the communities.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- † Sr. Elizabeth Joseph at the demise of her nephew in an accident on 12th February 2017.
- † Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara at the passing away of her cousin brother in an accident on 9th March 2017
- † Sr. Philomina Kuostu at the demise of her cousin brother on 10th March 2017.
- † Sr. Restitula Kharpran at the passing away of her uncle on 12th March 2017. He suffered from cancer.
- † Fr. Nestor Guria and the Salesians of Dimapur at the passing away of Fr. George Mukala SDB (85) on 14th March 2017.
- † Sr. Stella Potteprambil at the return of her maternal Aunt Mrs. Mary Joseph (86) on 17 March 2017 to heavenly abode.
- † Sr. Magnificat Soosai and the sisters of Chennai Province at the sudden passing away of Sr. Philomena Anthony on 29th March 2017.
- † Fr. Vijaya Bhaskar Thathireddy and the Salesians of Hyderabad Province at the demise of Fr. Gopu Anand SDB on 7 April 2017.



Prayers requested for:

Tomorrow morning I will be leaving for home to visit my elder brother Mr. Jacob who is suffering from Cancer. Please support him with your prayers.

Easter is the celebration of the victory and glory of Jesus. It is the foundation of our faith. St. Paul writes “If Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless” 1 Cor 15; 14. The beauty of Christian faith is in the assurance that everyone who believes in Jesus will share the glory of the resurrection of Jesus. Let the celebration of Easter fill and illumine our hearts with His glory. **Wish you a very Happy Easter!**

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)

