

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/28/12/2017

December 2017

Dearest Sisters,

Loving Greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum !

We are in the season of Advent which leads to the Christmas celebration. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation and of longing. It is a season in which we are called to become more alert to the presence of Christ. We are reminded that each of us will meet Christ at the end of our lives. So we listen to Jesus' words: "Be watchful" "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come" (Mt 24:42) St. Paul tells us " Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light" Advent announces that the Lord comes to us every day, He is never absent, He is always at work in us. Let us recognize Him in our sisters, in prayer, in events and in other people whom we come and contact with in our day to day life so that our preparation for Christmas may become meaningful. Let us entrust ourselves to the maternal assistance of Mary the Mother of Jesus and our mother, the waiting woman that she may help us to prepare our heart to welcome Jesus.

Christmas! A time of Hope, Trust, Encounter and Joy

Christmas! It is a feast of hope and trust. The reason for our hope is this: God is with us and still loves and trusts us. Pope Francis in his general audience says: "God still think well of us. He comes to abide with humankind; He chooses earth as his dwelling place to remain with people and to be found where people pass their days in joy or in sorrow. Therefore, earth is no longer only a "valley of tears" rather, it is the place where God Himself has pitched His tent, it is the meeting place of God". Let us make it a reality this celebration of God's love to the humanity by preparing a tent for the Lord in our hearts. This includes spending time in daily prayer, reading scripture, celebrating the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation with devotion and preparation and reaching out to our brothers and sisters.

Christmas! It is a time of encounter. *Pope Francis opens the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*, like this: "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who

encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness". With Christ joy is constantly born anew. At Christmas Jesus brings us spiritual energy, an energy which help us in our day today life, that transform our heart so that we can encounter Christ. Our Chapter document invites us to do the same. "Even today, an encounter with Jesus offers us new vision, opens our eyes, changes our hearts and our minds. Only a true encounter with Him transforms us from within and helps us to- re- read reality with new eyes. The resulting change becomes a power that transforms a source of vocational and missionary fruitfulness". (GC XXIII) Hence, let our Christmas celebration be a moment of encounter with God Himself who has pitched His tent in the heart of each one of us.

Christmas! It is a time of joy. The joyful announcement of the angels to the shepherds in Bethlehem rings out everywhere: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring great joy for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord". (Luke 2:10 -11) The joy of Jesus' birth has the power to transform the difficulties of life. Mary and Joseph were forced by the Roman authorities to make an unreasonably-difficult, journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. In spite of their difficult circumstances, they were overjoyed at the birth of Jesus. The shepherds were shivering in the frosty winter air, overworked, tired. Notwithstanding their dejected predicament, they went in haste to Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger, and they returned hearts filled with joy. The magi travelled a distant land. Despite their difficult journey, they were overjoyed at seeing babe with his mother Mary. May the birth of Jesus help us to experience the same joy that was experienced by the angels, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi. May the Jesus, the PRINCE OF PEACE bless us with the gif of peace in our hearts, in our communities, in our homes, in our country and in the world.

51st World Day of Peace – 1st January 2018

The theme for Pope Francis' Annual World Day of Peace message for 2018 is: "**Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace**". Pope points out what is needed in order for migrants and refugees to find the peace they seek is a strategy combining four actions: **welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating**. Pope Francis urges us to turn a "contemplative gaze" toward our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters and to respond to their plight with four "mileposts for action." Finally, in his message the Holy Father draws inspiration from Saint John Paul II with these words. "If the 'dream' of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees' and migrants' contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true 'common home'. Dear Sisters, let us read the message of Holy Father for the World Day of Peace individually and as a community and make it our own to become promoters of peace and harmony. (See attach)

Communications

Seminars & Meetings

Srs. Alma Bilung and Prisca Bara will be participating in the 14th Annual NDF Meet which will be held from 15- 18 December 2017 in Aluva, Kerala. The theme of the meeting will be Child Protection Policy - A Review

Sincere gratitude to:

- ➔ All the communities who have sent me the report of the solemn celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Expedition. Glad to know that all of you prepared for it with the yearlong preparation from 14 November 2016 – 14 November 2017, with the study of '100 Questions Quiz on the life of Sr. Angela Vallese', prepared by Sr. Mary George U and the life of other missionaries. Almost all the communities celebrated this great event with Triduum, Liturgical celebration involving our Salesian brothers, boarders, recipients of our mission, educating community, co-operators, youth, parishioners, oratorians, Salesian family members and others. The various initiatives taken have helped to reach out to many in a concrete manner as well as to make to known to others during the celebration. I am sure, this celebration have brought about renewed enthusiasm and fervor in our missionary endeavours in all our communities. The reports of the beautiful celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Expedition in our communities are uploaded in our province blog (fmainc.wordpress.com).
- ➔ Srs. Nirmala Tigga and Asha Kerketta, the Mission coordinators of the Province for their animation of the mission month and the celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Expedition.
- ➔ Sr. Margaret Ghosh and the community of Mazzarello Home – Monsada for the 21th set of Reflectionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- ➔ Sr. Gracy Parekattil and the community of Palam Gaon community for the Christmas Novena.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- † Fr. Jose Mathew and Salesians of New Delhi Province at the demise of Fr. Varkey Padamattumel on 19th November 2017.
- † Sr. Pranati at the sudden demise of her father Mr. Lalit Mohan Sacha Sundar (52) on 24 November 2017.
- † Sr. Mercy and Lucy Kachira at the passing away of their elder brother Mr. Jose Kachira on 26 November 2017.
- † Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) at the departure of Sr. Elizabeth Pakumala MSMHC on 27 November 2017 to receive her eternal reward.

Prayers requested for:

- For our 61 sisters who will be making their Annual Retreat at Auxilium Bandel from 28 December 2017 – 04 January 2018 and for the preacher Fr. Biji Thomas SDB.
- Our sick and ailing sisters

Dear Sisters, as conclude I take this occasion to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and Grace filled New Year 2018. May Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Light of the World and Prince of Peace, pierce the darkness of our lives and illumine our life with His light. Joy to the world the saviour has come !

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)



**Wish you
Very happy
Christmas
And
Grace filled
New Year !**