

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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January 2017

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum!

We have already entered into the New Year 2017. Since we celebrate the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on New Year's Day, I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Grace filled New Year. I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. Hence, our ideal motto for the New Year 2017 should be "Through Mary to Jesus!" This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is the Mother of the Church and of our Institute in particular. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her in order to make our educational apostolate fruitful by becoming like missionaries of hope and joy spreading the Good News of God's merciful love.

Strenna 2017

"We are a Family! Every home, a school of Life and Love". This year the Rector Major, in line with the Pope and the whole Church, aims to reflect on the theme of the family. "We are a Family", is the statement that opens the Strenna 2017. The family is a place of life, the family is a school of Life and Love. The Strenna does not claim to be a reflection that closes the discussion, but rather intends to propose important highlights that allow members of the Salesian Family to further develop the theme in their respective contexts.

It is also our mission as a Salesian Family in the light of the Preventive System of Don Bosco: "to make the world a home, like a big family playground of friends, of apprenticeship of life, of encounter with God." All of us have a strong personal experience of being born in a family. We learnt there the beauty as well as the limitations of a family. As part of the Strenna we are invited to acquaint ourselves in a more profound manner with the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*. We are also called to reflect on our pastoral and educational contribution towards the family. We are exhorted to be close to the families to help, construct and repair the

bonds, which unite a family. We are called towards a decisive and incisive pastoral accompaniment. I invite you dear sisters to take great interest in deepening this document and draw out concrete steps to implement it in our educational context.

Salesian Feasts

We will be celebrating the Feasts of **Blessed Laura Vicuna** on 22nd January. Remembering the phrase of Jesus: "No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends," Laura decided to give her life in exchange for her mother's salvation. One of her famous sayings was "suffer silently and smile always.' Let this teenager saint be a model for our young girls to remain strong in time of temptations posed by the fast changing world of technology and internet.

Let us imitate our patron saint **St. Francis De Sales** as we celebrate his feast. He was inflamed by great zeal for the salvation of souls, to spread the Word of God and to plant the Cross of our Lord. May he teach us his ways of gentleness and meekness.

St. John Bosco, our Father and founder, a man of astonishing faith, courage and generosity. He saw in the marginalized street urchins the image of God. He struggled to build a place for the children where they could find food, protection, warmth and education. He recognized on which side of the social divide Jesus stood, and He took His stand with the children. As we celebrate the feast of Don Bosco let us rediscover the enthusiasm and zeal of Don Bosco in the Da mihi animas and grow more and more rooted our chrism. Let us be convinced that we are called to work for the young with love, patience and provide opportunity for their integral formation. Like Don Bosco let us spend time with the young and accompany them in their journey of life.

Communications:

Meetings:

➤ The Annual retreat of the Sisters was held at Bandel from 28 December 2016 – 04 January 2017. It was preached by Fr. James Mathew SDB and participated by 52 sisters. "Solitude, Silence, and Constant Prayer" was the clarion call of the preacher. He led them to enter into the silence of the manger with the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes to enter into the depths of their inner selves, to contemplate the humanity of the Incarnate Word made flesh in the silence of the crib to recognize Him, know Him, be with Him and contemplate Jesus until He becomes incarnate in us, to seek Christ with whole heart to offer Him profound adoration, total surrender and ready to return to a new way led by the star through Scripture, to experience the Mount Tabor experience to taste the sweetness and the goodness of the Lord and rest in His abode. At the end of the retreat the participants committed themselves to spend half an hour in adoration and personal prayer everyday to deepen their love

for Christ and become aware of His presence in others and to cultivate an interior and exterior silence to grow in intense sisterly charity and religious discipline.

- ✚ On 5 and 6 January 2017, a seminar on New Education Policy, Child Protection Policy, POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act 2012, Current issues of Education, Minority Rights etc. was held at Auxilium Convent, Bandel. The resource person was Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ, the Secretary, (JEASA) Jesuit Educational Society of South Asia. 56 sisters participated and profited much from the seminar. He exhorted the participants to employ the three great powers the Gospel power, Institutional Power and Ecumenical Power to withstand today's challenges as Christians.
- ✚ I will be participating in the 47th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Religious Women in India (CRWI) which will be held at St Joseph Vaz Spirituality Centre Old Goa from 19 – 22 January 2017.
- ✚ The Annual Team meet will be held at Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum from 19 – 22 January 2017.
- ✚ Srs. Sherely Kalapurayil, Bridgit Chettri and Anand Tirkey will be taking part in the YaR seminar from 20-22 January 2017 at Mazzarello Centre, Wadala, Mumbai organized by the National YaR Co-ordinator Sr. Moksha Anthonappa in collaboration with National Development Forum coordinator Sr. Isabella Alphonse.
- ✚ Salesian Family Day will be held at the Mother House of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate on 23 January 2017, at Sisters of Mary Immaculate, Bishop Marrow Centre (BMC), Krishnagar.
- ✚ The Meeting of the Animators & Economers will be held at Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum from 27 – 30 January 2017.
- ✚ The new Aspirantate residence at Bamunmura will be blessed on Tuesday, 31st January 2017 at 10.00 am by Rev. Fr. Dominic Gomes, Vicar General of Kolkata Archdiocese.
- ✚ The meeting of the Junior sisters will be held at Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum from 10 – 13 February 2017.

Congratulations to:

- ✚ Fr. Antony Joseph SDB who is appointed as the New Provincial of Tiruchy Province
- ✚ Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel SDB who is appointed as the New Provincial of Chennai

While congratulate them let us offer our prayers for the fruitfulness of their mission which the Lord has entrusted to them.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ✚ Sr. Lily D' Souza and the community of Jaigaon for the 10th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- ✚ Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil and the community of Bandel for hosting the Annual retreat from 28 December 2016 – 04 January 2017 and the Seminar on 05 - 06 January 2017.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✚ Fr. Nestor Guria SDB, Provincial and the Salesians of Dimapur Province at the demise of Bro. Romanus Tirkey on 21st December 2016.
- ✚ Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB, Provincial and the Salesians of Guwahati Province at the passing away of Fr. Busolin Battista on 24th December 2016
- ✚ Sr. Premika Tirkey at the passing away of her uncle on 24th December 2016
- ✚ Sr. Elizabeth George FMA, Provincial and Sisters of Guwahati Province at the demise of Sr. Beatrice Consalvez on 26th December
- ✚ Sr. Catherine Das at the demise of her sister Ms. Jhaleswari on 26th December 2016
- ✚ Sr. Stella Potteparambil at the passing away of her maternal aunt Mrs. Elsy Raphael on 7th January 2017.
- ✚ Fr. Nestor Guria SDB, Provincial and the Salesians of Dimapur Province at the death of Fr. Chipfukho Salew Thomas SDB on 10th January 2017.
- ✚ Sr. Juliana Minj at the demise of her elder sister Mrs. Mary Minj on 11th January 2017.

Dear sisters, let us pray for the gift of peace which Jesus has promised for the world, in our country and in the heart of everyone "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (Jn 14:27).

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)