

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/23/07/2017

July 2017

Dear Sisters,

We have begun the month of July with the **Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle of India**. Even though he has been branded as “Doubting Thomas”, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: “My Lord and My God” (Jn 20:28), and in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. By these words which St. Thomas uttered, he surrendered himself totally and completely to Jesus Christ. Like St. Thomas, we too should surrender ourselves totally and completely to Jesus. This total and complete surrender should mean that we accept in faith whatever plan God has for our life. St. Thomas also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all Christians: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (Jn. 20: 29). If we have faith, we are really blessed. Therefore, let us also make ourselves worthy of being blessed and inherit the Kingdom of heaven.

Demise of Sr. Teresa Ruben

The demise of our dear Sr. Ruben is still fresh in our mind and it was a shock for all of us. Our God is a God of surprises and we have only to accept everything from His hands and bow to His holy will. On July 4, 2017, He came to take her from the community of Bandel to our heavenly home. Her sudden departure for heaven was least expected though she was suffering from fever for the last few days. The thought of death had always accompanied her since the time of the miraculous recovery from cerebral haemorrhage and surgery in April 2015. With the departure of Sr. Ruben the province has lost a genuine and committed religious imbued with the spirit of our holy Founders. A brief profile of Sr. Ruben has already been sent to you. Let us continue to pray for her and offer her our suffrages. May she have the joy of being in the company of all the angels and saints in heaven!

Towards Triennial Evaluation of GC XXIII

We are in the mid-way through the post Chapter journey and are preparing ourselves for the Triennial Evaluation. As our dear Mother General invites us, “let us live this period of evaluation, in a climate of listening to the Word of God, discernment, prayer and a real encounter with Jesus that forms and transforms those who let themselves be questioned with sincerity and without defensiveness”. From the answers that are coming in from all our communities, I can see that all of you have been making a deeper study and reflection on the three choices of Pastoral Conversion at personal and community level confronting yourselves with the experiences already made. Let it not be just for answering the questions or for sharing

the journey so far made but let our personal and community evaluation be a meaningful opportunity for each one of us to renew ourselves continuously and to re-commit ourselves more enthusiastically in the spirit of the *da mihi animas*, “going out” towards the “peripheries” beginning from our own communities. May Mary our Mother and Help continue to journey along with us and make us true missionaries of hope and joy.

Blessed Maria Romero

On 7th July we celebrate the feast of Bl. Maria Romero, an FMA who lived an authentic Salesian Religious life as envisaged by Don Bosco who said of us: “Their lives must harmonize the contemplative and the active life, reproducing Martha and Mary, the life of the apostles and that of the angels”. She incarnated in an original and concrete way, the dream of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello – continuous work accompanied by a contemplative gaze. Transformed by the encounter with God, she dedicated herself to Him wholeheartedly, serving Him in the poorest, with a deep sense of responsibility and belonging to the Institute. A woman of the Beatitudes, Sr. Romero made herself poor and one with the poor bringing hope and joy into their lives. Her passion for God and for the poor attracted many young women who even today together with the FMA continue her work and has become an example of *globalization of solidarity*. May her committed and generous service rendered to the poorest and the contemplative aspect of closeness and total surrender to God become our way of life too.

Communications

Congratulations!

Congratulations and prayerful greetings to our dear Sr. Anna Ma Ma and Srs. Cordula Kullu, Inocenia Jojo and Shanti Palamoottil on the occasion of their Golden and Silver Jubilee respectively. With all our hearts, we thank them for their life of fidelity and loving service in the Province. May God bless and reward you all dear sisters.

Seminar & Meeting

➤ Sr. Molly Elizabeth Kaniampadi, the PCI coordinator for Education will be organizing a workshop on Thinking Schools at Guwahati (DBI) from 17-19 August 2017. The resource person for the same will be Dr. David Paige from USA, an Associate Professor in Bellarmine University. It will be a Training of Trainers Program. Srs. Jancy Valliyil, Mary John, Aruna Kispotta, Deepa Minj, Prema Lourdu Francis, Sandhya Sudha Minj and 4 teachers from Auxilium Bandel, Barasat, Dum Dum and New Chumta will be participating in it.

➤ Economers’ meeting will be held from 15 – 18 July 2017 at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum. All are expected to arrive on 15th by lunch.

➤ Juniors’ meet will be held from 28 - 31 July 2017 at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum. Sisters are expected to arrive on 28th by lunch.

Retreat

Aspirants retreat will be held from 21- 23 July 2017 at Auxilium Aspirantate, Bamunmura. It will be animated by Fr.Jijo John SDB. On 24th July, Anima Kujur and Martha Minj will receive the Postulancy medal. Let us pray for our candidates in the formation house and intensify our prayers for more vocations.

Intensive Juniorate

Srs. Philomina Kuotsu and Suzan Maria Louis, will commence their intensive Juniorate from the 13th August 2017 at Provincial House, Guwahati. We wish them a very fruitful and enriching experience.

Sincere gratitude to:

➔ Sr. Theresa Vettuvazhiyil and the community of “Maria Ausiliatrice” New Chumta for the 16th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ To the provincial Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and sisters of Trichy Province at the demise of Sr.Abramo Teresa 88 on 27 June 2017.
- ✠ Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan at the passing away of her sister in-law Mrs. Felicita Victor on 8th July.

Prayers requested for:

- Mother of Sr. Julita Kujur
- Brother of Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. Pope St. Clement I says: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world." Therefore dear sisters let us cultivate this veneration of the Precious Blood. The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which Jesus shed for us on Calvary, it is the merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)