

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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November 2017

Dearest Sisters,

Loving Greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum !

After a month long spiritual preparation with the theme: "United as one Family for a culture of Peace and integrity of creation", we celebrated our togetherness as a Province, as one family during the Provincial Community Day on 18 October. Living together and working together is an essential element of our Vocation as FMA. This has been an occasion for us to live as a family and create a new prophetic sign of community communion in our journey of faith. I wish to say a word of thanks to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, our vice provincial and her close collaborators for the meticulous organization and realization of the event, followed by the celebration of the golden jubilee of profession of Sr. Anna Ma Ma. Thank you to all of you dear Sisters for your expressions of love and gratitude especially for the prayers you offered and continue to offer for my intentions and for the needs of the province.

Following these two family events, we had the post-chapter journey evaluation at provincial level. They were truly days of gratitude to the Lord for the journey already made in realizing the choices undertaken. Mother General in her Circular letter dated 24th January stated that 'The Evaluation is an opportunity that the Institute offers us to revive the consciousness of our charismatic identity, to re-read the life in the light of the Word of God and the challenges of today and to project towards the future with hope.'

Thank you for the support of your prayers and for the contributions you made towards its success. The sharing on the three pastoral choices and our experiences of the renewed Constitutions and Regulations at a deeper level was an opportunity for all the participants to re-commit ourselves to an encounter that forms and transforms leading us to be missionaries of hope and joy wherever we are and in whatever we do. I am sure the Animators and the Sisters who participated in the Assembly have communicated to you their rich experiences, the prayer moments, the sessions and also the suggestions for the betterment of our personal, community and apostolic life. Yes, dear Sisters, every sincere encounter with Jesus changes lives, He changes our life purpose, He changes us from being faithless to being faithful, and He gives us unconditional love and uncompromising hope of everlasting life.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH ENCOUNTER

For our monthly appointment of this month, I would like to share with you some reflections on the first choice of Pastoral conversion: *Transformation through Encounter*. “The most important thing that can happen to a person is to encounter Jesus, who loves us, who has saved us, who gave his life for us”, says Pope Francis. Where then, and how, do we encounter Jesus each day, an encounter bound to change our lives and make us happy and joyful? I would like to propose for our consideration, three places to encounter the living Jesus: First, Jesus is alive in his **Word**, the inspired Gospel stories and the living tradition of the church. Second, we meet Jesus in the **Sacraments**, especially in regular participation in both the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation. And third, we meet Jesus in our loving **Service** to the young people, to those in need, those who live on the periphery of society.

In these three ways we meet and encounter Jesus. To meet Jesus and be transformed by that encounter is the hope and joy of every person who is searching for God. Therefore, the importance of meeting Him in our daily life, through Word of God, in the celebration of the Eucharist, in our community prayers and above all, a personal encounter in the stillness of our being, a time alone with the Alone, cultivating a great desire, and a hunger and thirst for God and for spirituality. The Chapter Document says, “As FMA, taking charge of our own spiritual growth on the journey of following Jesus is a necessary condition so that all the experiences of life can become opportunities for growth as missionary disciples.” (GC XXIII p. 25)

Both personally and as a community, we are called to seek the plan of God together to celebrate the” mysticism of meeting “in everyday life and joyfully witness to our faith experience. Only an encounter with Jesus can transform our personal life and that of our communities into a home that welcomes, eases suffering, invites toward new horizons, and evangelizes. A relationship that expresses the happiness in being FMA called to a stupendous and real mission among the young.

As Pope Francis remind us that every institutional renewal will be efficacious only and exclusively if it is actualized by ‘renewed’ people, capable of conversion and on-going purification, in a change of mentality and of life. Let us be convinced that without having a vital, personal and solid relationship with Christ we will not be able to do anything. The more we are in intimacy with God the more we will be united among ourselves and will be able to accomplish much in our mission among the young.

FMA Missionary Expedition 140th Anniversary



After an intense year of preparation, animated and guided by the Mission sector, Rome, the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the first FMA missionary expedition to Uruguay will take place in the whole Institute on 14 November 2017. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our dear Sr. Alaide Deretti, the General councilor for the Missions, for her monthly letter which prepared us so beautifully to celebrate this great event of our Institute in a fitting manner at personal and community level.

Through a gift of the Holy Spirit and a significant intuition of Don Bosco, after about five years since the foundation of the FMA Institute, he opened the mission *ad gentes*. At Mornese, Mother Mazzarello, the first sisters, and even the students dreamt of going to evangelize the young people in distant lands. To celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first Missionary Expedition is to reaffirm with greater conviction our adhesion to the missionary mandate of Jesus: "Go to the whole world". In the heart of the Church, the FMA Institute is an Institute with a missionary face, with a strong passion for the proclamation of the Gospel to the young.

While we thank the Lord and our Bl. Mother for the 140th Anniversary of the departure of the first Missionary Expedition, let us strive ever more to live with missionary ardor the *da mihi animas cetera tolle* in every circumstance and reality and be missionaries of His love in every place the young people frequent. May the Lord, make passion for the mission grow in us and make us witnesses of His love and mercy everywhere.

I am sure all the communities have already received guidelines from the Salesian Family Sector, Rome: The Orientations for the Celebration of the 140th anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Expedition, Triduum in preparation for the celebration and Celebration of 140th anniversary of the first FMA missionary departure. The involvement of the educating communities and members of the Salesian Family present in the area is encouraged. I would like to hear the resonance of the celebration, so kindly send me a report of the same along with two photos and to Sr. Nirmala Tigga the Mission Sector coordinator of the Province. Wish you all a creative and wonderful celebration!

Communications

First World Day of the Poor - 19 November, 2017

After the extraordinary jubilee year of Mercy, the Holy Father wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor. Therefore Pope Francis has declared a **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**, to be celebrated every year, on the 33rd Sunday of the Ordinary time, or the Sunday just before the feast of Christ the King, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need. The Holy Father exhorts in his message: *"This new World Day, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel."*

I kindly request you all to read the full text of Holy Father's message: **"Let us love, not with words but with deeds"** for the day. (see attach) Let us involve our educating community in the observation of this day meaningfully.

Indian Constitutions Day

The Indian Constitutions Day will be celebrated on **26 November, 2017** all over the country. Let us celebrate this day in all our Institutions in a meaningful way in order to spread the values and humanitarian principles envisaged by the Constitutions of our nation in order to promote the sanctity of life in general and of our country's values.

Past Pupils Federation

On 5th October 2017 during the Annual Past Pupils Federation Meet held at Auxilium - Barasat, Ms.Kamal Jahan Hussain was elected as the new President of the Past Pupils Federation.

Seminars & Meetings

Srs. Lily D'Souza, Margaret Fernandes, Lucy Kachira and Clara Saminathan will be participating in the ASISC (Association of Schools for the Indian School Certificate) Conference 2017, from 29 November – 01 December 2017 at Jaipur.

Sincere gratitude to:

- Sr. Lily D'Souza and the community of Mazzarello – Ranchi for the 20th set of Reflectionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and the Community of Dum Dum for hoisting the Provincial community Day, Golden Jubilee celebration and Province Assembly from 18-22 October 2017.

- Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel for coordinating the Province Assembly 2017 with much efficiency and groundwork.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ Fr. Felix Fernandes and the Salesians of Panjim Province at the demise of Fr. Dominic Savio Fernandes on 08 October 2017.
- ✠ Sr. Kishori Minj at the passing away of her paternal aunt Mrs. Scolastica Tirkey on 09 October 2017.
- ✠ Fr. Godfrey and the Salesians of Mumbai Province of Mumbai at the demise of Fr Stephen Rodrigues (70) on 18 October 2017 at Holy Spirit Hospital, Mumbai.
- ✠ Sr. Amalanathan Margaret and the Sisters of Tiruchy Province at the departure of Sr. Fernando Juliet on 22 October 2017.
- ✠ Sr. Julita Kujur at the demise of her mother Mrs. Pancricia Kujur on 27 October 2017.
- ✠ Srs. Prisca, Prisila and Binita Bara at the passing away of their paternal aunt Mrs. Roja Lakra on 02 November 2017.

Dear Sisters, as we have commenced the month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory let us we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, especially those whom we have known and loved. Prayers for the faithful departed, pleases God, who makes use of our prayers to help purify these souls that He loves. It is an act of charity that we can give for those we have known and loved.

As I conclude my letter I am reminded of the words of P.B.Shelley:

The One remains, the many change and pass;
Heaven's light forever shines, Earth's shadow fly;
Life, like a dome of many –coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of Eternity

Therefore as we journey towards our eternal home, let us focus our gaze on the One who remains forever.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)