

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/32/04/2018

April 2018

Dearest Sisters,

*Rapt in the silence of the tomb
the great Redeemer lay
till the revolving skies had brought
the third, the appointed day.
Hell and the grace combined force
to hold our Lord in vain.
Sudden the conqueror arose
and burst their feeble chain (Isaac Watts).*

As we are still in the season of Easter, I would like to turn your thoughts towards the Risen Jesus who emerged from the tomb victorious, saying: 'This is what my life was meant'. Easter tells us that after darkness comes light; after the heartbreak, the daybreak; after the struggle, the victory. It is the pledge of our victory, over all that brings death. By his resurrection Jesus sanctified suffering. Without resurrection, suffering has no meaning. A story is told of a little boy who was contemplating a crucifix. An atheist passed by and asked the boy what he was contemplating. The boy explained everything up to the death of Jesus. The atheist went away. The boy ran after him and said: "Sir, I forgot to tell you one thing. Jesus rose on the third day". Jesus tells us that we shall live eternally if only we accept our suffering lovingly. Easter teaches us that there is no life without death, no gain without losing, no receiving without giving, no Easter without Good Friday. The greeting of Jesus on the day of the resurrection to his disciples was: "Peace be with you" (Jn 20, 19). May His gifts of peace and joy live on in our hearts and may we be his loving and visible presence among His people especially among the young people entrusted to our care!

Feast of Mercy

We just celebrated the feast of Divine Mercy and when Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in the year 2000, he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church. On that day, Pope John Paul II declared, "This is the happiest day of my life". Pope Francis comments: "Let us never forget that mercy is the keystone of the life of faith, and concrete way with which we give visibility to the Resurrection of Jesus". Mercy, he said, is understood as a true awareness of "the mystery" that the Church is living, particularly during the Easter season. "It makes us understand that violence, resentment and revenge have no meaning, and the first victim is whoever lives these sentiments, because it deprives them of their own dignity," he said. Mercy also allows us to

open the door of our hearts and draw close to those who are “alone and marginalized,” recognizing those in need and finding the right words to say to comfort them.

God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-14). ... Let us therefore, drink deeply from the Fount of Mercy and be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

Feast of Gratitude to our dear Mother General

We are still living the fresh memories of our dear Mother General who visited our province just two months ago and our hearts still wells up with joy and gratitude for the precious moments we lived with her. Let our gratitude and love be expressed in our daily prayer for her intentions. Let us intensify our preparation for this feast of the family in every community, with renewed commitment in living God's call with joy and hope.

This year the Feast of Gratitude will be celebrated in Asunción, in the Province of St. Raphael, the Archangel, Paraguay, on 26 April 2018. The Theme proposed is: “By living the response to God's call with joy and hope, we re-awaken the plan of God in every young person”. It is expressed in the Slogan: "***With the young, we touch the chords of life, witnessing to the joy of following Christ***".

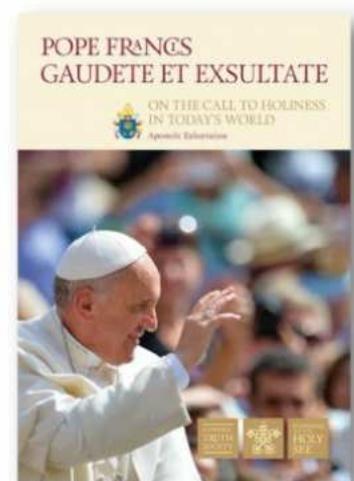
To prepare ourselves for the feast, the hosting province of Paraguay proposes that we live the word of Jesus (taken from the passage of John 15: 1-17) "Remain in my love" that translates into the commitment to:

- Pray in community every month, from the 15-24, the Novena to Mary Help of Christians for vocations, accompanied by gestures of charity among ourselves;
- Guarantee concrete mediations of accompaniment of the young in every Province and educating community.
- To share this commitment, each Province is invited to send documentation on the experience realized to awaken in the young God's Plan for their life.

You are requested to send a report of the preparation and celebration of the Feast of Gratitude in the community to the Provincial Office.

The Third Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis: *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be glad)*

Pope Francis has published his third Apostolic Exhortation, titled ***Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be glad)***. Here he reflects on the call to holiness, and how we can respond to that call in the modern world. “My modest goal” in the Exhortation, Pope Francis says, “is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time.” It is a Guide to Christianity for 21st Century. *Gaudete et Exsultate* is composed of five chapters. The heart of *Gaudete et exsultate* is dedicated to the idea that holiness means following Jesus. Pope states: "The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He



wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence." Pope says, some characteristics of holiness in the current world: patience and meekness, humor, courage and fervor, community life and constant prayer. The exhortation concludes with a chapter dedicated to the spiritual life as "combat, vigilance and discernment." Let us all read, reflect and taste the beauty of the call to holiness.

Communications



Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes

- To our dear Mother General Mother Yvonne Reungoat who is elected as the President of the Union of the Major Superior's of Europe on 5th April 2018. Let us pray and support our dear Mother as she takes up her new responsibility.
- To Sr. Elizabeth George, the 12th Provincial of the Province of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Shillong (INS), and Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal, the 4th Provincial of the Mater Ecclesiae Province of Guwahati (ING), who have been nominated by Mother General to be the leaders the provinces. Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal will take up her new responsibility on 10 August 2018. Let us sent ahead our prayers and invoke God's copious blessings upon them and the Provinces. May their leadership bring blessings and fruitfulness in the Provinces.



Sincere appreciation and Gratitude!

Appointment of Animators

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the animators for 2018 – 2021.

First Term

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sr.Mundackal Teresa | - Bareilly "S. Giovanni Bosco" |
| Sr.Karakkal Teresa | - Gobra "Maria Ausiliatrice" |

Second Term

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sr.Palliparambil Leelamma | - BARASAT " B. Eusebia Palomino" |
| Sr.Makil Elizabeth | - Park Circus " Maria Ausiliatrice" |
| Sr.Thekumkattil Rosina | - Kalyani " Auxilium" |
| Sr.Mannookulangara Lucy | - Najafgarh " Maria Ausiliatrice" |
| Sr.Tirkey Rosalia | - Ranchi " Sacro Cuore di Gesu" |

- Mother General and her Council have also approved the appointment of Sr. Rosalia Tirkey as the Novice Mistress for a second Term, Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel as the Province economer for a Second Term and Sr. Minimol Mary Chettayil as the Province Secretary for a Third Term.

I thank you dear sisters for your availability and generosity in shouldering the responsibility of animation. Let us support them with our prayers so that they may be led by the Spirit and guided by our Blessed Mother who is the inspirer of our Institute.

I express my sincere words of appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Baxla Praphulla Jyoti and Sr.Chirammal Philomena for their generous and dedicated service of animation in the communities of Bareilly and Gobra respectively.

Canonical Erection

Mother General and her Council have approved the canonical erection of the community of Kurtumgarh on 24th June 2018 under the patronage of St. John Bosco and the appointment of Sr. Anna Theyattil as the animator of the new community.

I thank Sr. Annie for her generous “yes” to the new responsibility placed on her. Let us support her with our prayers for this new mission.

Second Novitiate - II phase

Srs. Delpina Teresa Bag, Rose Mary Ekka, Sabita Nayak and Sumitra Ekka commenced their second phase of the second Novitiate on 14th April 2018 and will conclude on 14 May 2018. Let us support them with our prayers.

Congratulations and God's blessings!

- To our Srs. Delpina Teresa Bag, Rose Mary Ekka, Sabita Nayak and Sumitra Ekka who will make their Perpetual Profession on 25th May 2018 at St. John Bosco church, Kalyani. Rt. Rev. Joseph Suren Gomes SDB, the Bishop of Krishnagar will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration at 9.00 am.
- To our Novices Salomi Bhuiya and Shashikanta Xalxo who will make their first profession on 24th May 2018 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi.
- To our postulants Anima Kujur and Martha Minj who will enter the Novitiate on 23 May 2018
- To our 11 Junior Sisters who will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart Novitiate – Ranchi and at Provincial House, Guwahati.

We thank God for the gift of these our sisters and pray for them so that they may become Missionaries of Hope and Joy to the young people.

Retreats

- ⇒ 24 sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 16 -23 May 2018 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi. It will be followed by Renewal, Vestition and 1st profession. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Ramesh Cherian SDB.
- ⇒ 31 Sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 26 May – 02 June 2018 at Auxilium – Kurseong. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Jose Kuttianimattathil SDB. It will be followed by a seminar on JJ Act organized by the YaR sector of the Province and the Transmission of the Triennial Evaluation.
Let us send our prayers ahead for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the preachers and the retreatants.

Seminars

- ✓ Srs. Jancy Valliyil, Prema Francis, Julita Kujur, Restitula Kharpran, Lemnom Mosang and Pranati Sabasundhar participated in the two day workshop on news reporting and media. It

was held at Don Bosco Nitika from April 14, 9 am- April 15, 4.30 pm 2018, organized by the Salesians and opened to the Salesian Family. The resource person was Mr. Marydasan John, the Retired Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu, Delhi.

- ✓ There will be a seminar for the teachers of Kolkata zone (Dum Dum, Barasat, Bandel, Park Circus and Kalyani) on 28th April 2018 from 8.00 am – 5.00 pm, at Auxilium Convent School, Dum Dum organized by the Education Sector of the Province and animated by Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ.

There will be a half day seminar for the sisters of all the communities of Kolkata in the Provincial House, Dum Dum on 27th April 2018 from 2.30 pm – 6.00 pm conducted by Fr. Sunny. I encourage all the communities to send as many sisters as possible to participate in this meeting.

Dear Sisters, I recommend all of you to plan and organize summer camps in all our communities during the summer vacation.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ✚ The community of Bandel for the Novena practices in honour of St. Mary Mazzarello
- ✚ The community of Auxilium - Kurseong for hosting the Annual Retreat of the Animators from 04 – 11 March 2018 preached by Fr. Jose Parappully SDB, the Transmission of Triennial Verifica 2018 and meeting of the animators on 12 – 13 March 2018.

Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- ✚ Sr. Alexandra Dias (86) who left for her eternal reward on 17th April 2018 from the Province of Mumbai.

Dear Sisters,

I would like to conclude my letter once again bringing to your attention the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be glad. Mt 5:12)*. “He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. The Lord has chosen each one of us “to be holy and blameless before him in love” (Eph 1:4).

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)