

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum
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Dearest Sisters,

Loving Greetings from the communities of North Bengal !

We are still in the month of St. Joseph and have just celebrated the solemnity of this great saint and the Patron of our Institute. St. Joseph is one of the most loved saints because he is the man whom God chose among all others to be the special guardian of Jesus and our Blessed Mother. He was the human guardian of the Holy Family, and so he is also the protector of all of us. Humility, generosity, genuine spirit of sacrifice, absolute obedience, patience, courage, hard work, poverty and chastity were the distinguishing characteristics of St. Joseph.

Our Constitutions Article 45 says, "God shows us his presence and image in the lives of the saints, and speaks through them. Let us entrust ourselves to these our sisters and brothers, looking to their lives as models and seeking help through their intercession, certain of sharing with them in the one communion of the church."

One of the great virtues of St. Joseph was his constancy. When, seeing our Lady with child and not knowing how that could be, it must have caused him great distress! St. Joseph did not complain, he was not unkind, or less gracious towards his spouse; he did not mistreat her, but remained as gentle and as respectful to her as he had ever been. St. Joseph demonstrated valor and strength and his humble acceptance of God's plan.

With regard to perseverance Joseph set out quickly to Egypt taking Our Lady and the child Jesus without saying a word. St. Joseph remained there in a foreign country, sure that God, who had commanded him to go, would again command him when he had to return, and St. Joseph was always ready to obey.

St. Joseph is known as "the Just Man." To be just is nothing else but to be entirely united to the will of God, and to be conformed to it in all events, successful or unfavorable. It is this 'yes' to God's will that we are invited to imitate St. Joseph in our day to day life.

We are an Easter People, Christ is Risen ! Alleluia!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. Easter celebrates the foundation of the Christian faith. Therefore we are invited to be glad and rejoice in it. Jesus' death was a sacrifice for the sins of the human race, but his

resurrection represents something even more powerful, the potential for rebirth, salvation, and renewal of our faith. It is an opportunity for us to recommit our faith in Jesus.

It is a clarion call for us to strengthen our faith because if Jesus hadn't risen, our faith would have been in vain or even empty as St. Paul tell us: "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and our belief comes to nothing" (1 Cor. 15:14). The divinity of Jesus is rooted in the moment of His resurrection. "The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God's presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." (Clarence W. Hall). Easter promises new hope, new joy and new aspirations and we enjoy the goodness of God and the new life that we have received through Jesus Christ. Let us fill the emptiness of our hearts with the dazzling rays of the resurrected Jesus.

Annual Retreat

"... What we have heard and have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, I mean the Word who is life ...we have seen eternal life and we bear witness, and we are telling you of it." (1 Jn 1 – 2). This might be the feeling of our dear Animators who encountered Jesus in His Word. I am sure they might have already shared in detail their beautiful DESERT JOURNEY experiences and the Transmission of the Triennial evaluation. The Retreat was a transforming Lenten Desert Journey. The retreatants were called to create an interior silence where they could confront themselves (wild beasts) and experience the warmth of God's love (ministering angels).

I would like to share with you some of the conditions that are essential for our healing and transformation highlighted by the preacher, Rev Fr. Jose Parapully SDB.

- Experience weakness and powerlessness and surrender in faith and trust in God
- Recognize infidelity and failure and God's unconditional acceptance and love and return to initial love and devotion to God and the vocational commitment
- Understand the meaning and relevance of religious life and live it more authentically and meaningfully
- Recognize the need for forgiveness, reconciliation and healing and be open to receive and give it
- Have an intimate knowledge of Jesus, love him more deeply and follow him more closely.

Communications

We were happy in deed to have had the presence of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil with us , who was abducted by Islamic militants two years ago and spent 557 days in captivity in Yemen. He spent a few days from 17 – 21 February 2018 in our Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum. It was a great joy for all of us but in particular Sr. Mary George Uzhunnall who is his aunt. He visited many of our communities in Kolkata. Let us continue to support him with our prayers.

Sincere gratitude to:

- The community of Najafgarh for the Novena practices in honour of St. Joseph
- The community of Kurtumgarh for the 24th and the last set of Reflectionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.
- 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 on 12 – 13 March 2018.



Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- ✠ Late Sr. Geraldine's elder sister Ms. Emerald Esther Philomena Pereira who was called to her eternal abode on 2nd March 2018. She suffered a heart attack.
- ✠ Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil's maternal aunty Mrs. Anna (73) who was returned to her heavenly home on 12th March 2018. She suffered from a heart attack.
- ✠ Sr. Premika Tirkey's cousin brother Mr. Polycarp Tirkey (49) who died on 8th March 2018 due to cancer.
- ✠ Sr. Restitula Kharpran's grandmother who passed away on 16th March 2018

Prayers requested for:

- All our sick and ailing sisters
- Peace in the world especially in Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Syria and for many other parts of the world.

Dear Sisters,

As we are approaching the celebration of Easter let this time of immediate preparation be a time to make a difference in our relationship with God and with one another and a time to grow more deeply in God's grace. I wish and pray that may Jesus draw us closer to him, and prepare us for a fresh experience of the Paschal feast. Wish you all a Very Happy Easter! May the Risen Lord be with us and fill us with his lasting peace and joy.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)

Christ is Risen !
Alleluia !

