

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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November 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Affectionate Greetings from Auxilium Provincial House ,Dum Dum !

The Church begins the month of November remembering all our intercessors who have joined the company of saints. On this day, all of us celebrate together the great Solemnity of All Saints, all the holy men and women who have gone before us, and whom the Church has officially recognized as those who have deserved and are worthy of the glory of heaven, by the virtue of their lives on earth, their exemplary and inspiring life examples, and their commitments to the Church, to God and His people.

In the book of Revelation John recounts a vision he received of that great celebration in heaven. *“I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, ‘victory to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb’”* ((Rev 7:9-10). The saints in heaven have been faithful to Jesus despite all the difficulties of living the Christian life and being followers of Jesus. That is why they are now given white robes in this vision of John, showing that they have remained faithful to Jesus in all the trials that came upon them. *“These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb”* (Rev 7:14).

The lives and examples of numerous Saints should encourage us to follow in their footsteps and experience the joy of those who trust in God. Pope Francis urges us to contemplate the totality of the life of saints, their entire journey of growth in holiness. Looking at the shining example of the Saints, we should reawaken within us the great longing to be like them; happy to live near God, in his light, in the great family of God's friends.

To be a Saint requires neither extraordinary actions nor the possession of exceptional charisms. Pope Francis in *“Gaudate et Exsultate”* says that we are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. As consecrated persons we have to be holy by living our commitment with joy and working for the common good, renouncing all personal gain, making a total gift of ourselves for the building up of God's Kingdom (cf. GE 14).

Dear Sisters, let us therefore strive with all our hearts and minds to live a life of holiness as consecrated persons seeing our mission as a path to holiness. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection. Let our joy of being totally belonging to God by our consecration be visible on our faces and be seen by the young people whom we accompany in the journey of life.

Salesian Saints of the Month, Models of Holiness

- *Blessed Artemide Zatti SDB* (13 Nov.) - He left Italy with his family in search of a better life in Argentina, the land dreamed by Don Bosco. There he discovered the Salesian vocation which he lived in a passionate, competent service and with a great love for the sick. For almost fifty years he lived in Viedma, Argentina as an exemplary religious dedicated totally to the service of the needy. What gave depth to all this and what immediately struck those who met him, was his interior life as disciple of Jesus who lived his consecration at every moment of his life in constant union with God and in gospel fraternity. It is remarkable that, with the challenging task he had to do, Artemide never lost the sense of community. He was always present for the daily prayers, moments of fraternal gatherings at table and other occasions for sharing the joy of family which he expressed in a very special way. For him the Salesian community was a place to experience of God and the fraternity of the Gospel. Let his example be an inspiration for us to live our community-communion with greater enthusiasm and love.
- *Blessed Magdalene Morano FMA* (15 Nov.) - Magdalene Morano was a “teacher” par excellence, a woman rich in love and goodness, intelligent, vivacity and wisdom. As a young teacher she lived a life of deep union with God, teaching catechism, preparing children to receive the sacrament, visiting the sick and serving the parish community. Her life is even today a prophecy of love inspiring us in the education of women and young people in joyful and zealous evangelization. May she intercede for us so that like her we too may strive to walk with the young on the road to sanctity!
- *Servant of God Margaret Occhiena* (25 Nov.) - In 1940, Pope Pius XII said, “In the plan of God, parents are the first educators of children. To understand how Don Bosco realized his boyhood dream of becoming the father of abandoned boys, one must remember the kind of education he had received from his own beloved mother”. Her deep spirituality and religiosity, her deep faith in God and her heroic detachment and her unconditional love brought into this world John Bosco and sowed into his heart the seed of Salesian Mission for the young. It was she who led Don Bosco on the road to sanctity.

Month of Holy Souls - In this month of November , specially dedicated to the Holy Souls, the Church reminds us of our obligation to pray for the deceased. Besides our own dear ones who have already left this world, we have many FMA Sisters who have gone before us, having labored and lived among us. Let us gratefully remember our dear departed Sisters and let us pray for them during this month. Each of our dear

departed manifests a particular aspect of the Spirit of the FMA life and sanctity. Their love for God and for the young people were very much evident in their life. Their faith, their hard work and their selfless service in the mission are to be remembered and cherished. While we pray for them, let us also pray to God through their intercession for all the needs of our province.

Feast of Christ the King – On the last Sunday of this liturgical year (Nov.25), the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas Primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing nationalism and secularism. He recognized that these related social evils would breed increasing hostility against the Church. His encyclical reminds the faithful that while governments and philosophies come and go, Christ reigns as king forever. Jesus is the center of creation; and so the attitude demanded of us as true believers is that of recognizing and accepting in our lives the centrality of Jesus Christ, in our thoughts, in our words and in our works. Let us ask ourselves: "Is Jesus, centre of my life, always and everywhere?"

BRBC-CRI- CDPB Bengal Sikkim Annual Meet

The BRBC-CRI-CDPB Bengal – Sikkim Regional meet was held at Seva Kendra from 5-7 November 2018. The meeting commenced with a beautiful inaugural Welcome ceremony held at Loreto Entally hall followed by the inaugural Holy Eucharist concelebrated by all the 7 Bishops of the region. The First session commenced with the releasing of the book, Pope Francis' Catechesis on the Holy Mass prepared by Fr. Gilbert Choondal SDB by Archbishop Thomas D'souza. Fr. Gilbert in his session highlighted the five cries of the youth - loneliness, family trouble, outrage, closes minds and joy 2. The synod so far – preparatory document, Instrumentum Laboris, online questionnaire - success and failures, three weeks of Synod 3. Proposals 4. Our Approach to the Synod: Jesus way (Emmaus) accompaniment, Vocational discernment, Youth catechesis, youth Liturgy. The session ended with a group discussion on relevant topics and general assembly. The afternoon session was youth panel headed by Angelina who shared their God experience with the participants followed by questionnaire session.

On the following day sessions were consisted of the presentation of the reports by the three groups of BRBC, CRI and CDPB on how last year's action plans were realized and the choice of the Plan of Action for the year 2018- 2019 which follows below:

1. Data collection as a preparation for Youth day (4th Aug. 2019) at the parish level.
2. Initiate and introduce TOB (Theology of the Body) Movement in every Diocese.
3. Create youth friendly atmosphere and welcoming attitude in every parish and institution; offer opportunities for bible studies, SCC, faith formation and spiritual experience.
4. Offer training programmes for catechism teachers
5. Make the youth aware of our Constitutional preamble and help them to understand it.

6. Invite youth to share their experiences as resource persons in the convent and religious institutions.
7. Have training session for young Sisters and Seminarians in inter-congregational level.

Communications



Meetings

- ❖ Srs. Rosina Thomas, Gracy Valliyil, Margaret Ghosh, Teresa Karakkal and Rosy Veliyen will be participating in the seminar for Local Superiors held at Proggaloy, Barasat from December 02-08, 2018.
- ❖ Srs. Celine Alexander and Julita Kujur will be participating in the short term courses in digital photography from Dec 10 - 15, 2018 and Basic Video Production from Dec 17 – 22, 2018 at NISCORT, New Delhi.
- ❖ Srs. Alma Bilung, Jancy Valliyil, Basanti Ekka and Anima Minj will be participating in the 15th Annual Meet of FMA-NDF-INDIA, which will be held at Guwahati, from 16 -19 December 2018. The theme for the Meet is "Education to Social change and Nation Building"

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- ✝ Sr. Clara Saminathan's paternal aunt Ms.Vanamala Veronica who returned to her Heavenly home on 5th November 2018.

Prayers requested for:

- 🙏 For the father of Sr. Mary John who is suffering from cancer and is in the hospital
- 🙏 For the mother of Sr. Sabita Nayak who had a fall and now the condition is serious

Dear Sisters,

I would like to conclude this letter by quoting the words of our Holy Father at his General Audience on last Wednesday, "Life is a time for giving, not possessing. What makes us truly rich is not goods, but love". Therefore let us be give because "*God loves a cheerful giver.*"

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)