

# 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/37/09/2018**

**September 2018**

Dearest Sisters,

***Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Dum Dum !***

We are in the month of September in which we celebrate three liturgical feasts of Mary our Most Holy Mother. On 8 September we celebrate her birthday, on 12<sup>th</sup> the Holy Name of Mary and on 15<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Sorrows.

The Church joyfully celebrates the beginning of the Redemption of the entire humanity when, after a long period of awaiting, she who was to be the Mother of our Savior was born. The Blessed Virgin Mary occupies a unique role and place in the history of salvation. The Most Holy Trinity has reserved for Mary the highest mission ever extolled to any creature. Through her generous “fiat” (Be it done!) to God’s will, salvation has come into the world. For this reason, heaven and earth rejoice at her birth. Let us thank the Most Blessed Trinity for giving us the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and as our mother and teacher!

## **Mary’s presence in our journey of Formation**

The Virgin Mary, the first human being consecrated to the cause of her Son, is associated with the work of the Spirit. Hence her presence in the formation of those called to the following of Christ is a must. For us, who are called to be her daughters, Mary’s presence has a particular relevance. The presence of Mary in our Institute is a distinctive charismatic experience. Within the mystery of the Church, Mary is the Inspirer of our Institute. She forms us to welcome into our hearts the Word of God, as she did. She teaches us to listen to the Word, to meditate on it, to bring it to life in our formative and educational mission. In formation, we choose Mary as the one who inspires us and from whom we learn how to accompany those confided to our care, with love, patience, tenderness and perseverance.

A perfect example of the presence and action of Mary as Helper, educator and companion on our journey of forming ourselves and others, is found in the text of the Wedding at Cana (Jn 2: 1-11). The images of the ‘house’ and of the ‘mother of Jesus’ at Cana, are icons of the FMA community with its animator that welcomes and accompanies the members of the community, especially the younger ones, in the celebration of the feast of life, of the Covenant that God established with Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. Together with Mary, the community becomes formative to the extent that it permits each one of its members to “Do whatever He tells” and to grow in fidelity to the Lord according to the charism of our Institute. When we do whatever He tells us, the new wine of joy will continue to gladden our fraternal table, enriched with the new wine of every member of our communities. The presence of Mary at Cana of our community, urges us to witness in daily life to the joy of the call to follow Jesus unconditionally and to give ourselves totally to the mission. May she obtain for us this grace!

## Guidelines for the Formation period of Temporary Vows

On 7 September morning, Rev. Sr. Maria Nieves Reboso, the General Councillor for Formation and her two collaborators – Srs Maria Fisichella and Anelfreda Miranda – were accorded a colourful and affectionate welcome by the provincial house community and the school together with all the Animators and Formators of the Province who had come for the three days workshop on the Guidelines for the for the Formation of the young sisters.

From 8 -10 September, the Formation Team from Rome met the 36 animators and formators gathered in Dum Dum. They conducted a workshop on the new ***Guidelines for the Formation period of Temporary Vows***. **The goal of the Encounter was: *Entrust to the province, the Guidelines for the formation phase of Temporary Vows so that they may be assumed and enculturated in a concrete formation itinerary, for the accompaniment of the Temporary Professed Sisters of the Province***. The three days saw the participants engrossed in the guided study, reflection and sharing on the document which is the fruit of the study and hard work done together, by the Formation Sector of the Institute, the International Commission, the Fomators and, above all, the Temporary Professed Sisters who are primarily responsible for their own formation.

Mary at Cana is the Gospel Icon that has been chosen to accompany us in taking responsibility for these Guidelines, making ourselves available by giving our assent to her invitation: “Do whatever He tells you”. These new Guidelines contain directions that the institute offers to the province, communities and Juniors for discernment and revision of the formative phase of Temporary Profession. The proposals in the Guidelines will help us to deepen some important aspects of formation that, today, require particular attention and care.

Dear Sisters, all of us are convinced that the community is the best place for vocational growth. Therefore, it is our bounden duty to know the formation programme of the Junior Sisters of the province and so the community needs to undertake its role within the process, with greater awareness and periodically evaluate its effective involvement. I invite you to make it a point, to study the document at personal and community levels and implement them in practical life.

On 11<sup>th</sup> they visited the Aspirantante and met the Aspirants, Postulants and the Sisters of the formation community separately. Sr. Nieves unfolded to them the significance of following Christ. Among many other things, she also exhorted the candidates to be simple, open, and sincere with their formators and to make use of every opportunity given to them as occasions of formation. She invited the Sisters of the community to accompany them with ‘*amorevolezza*’ as Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello would do. She stressed on the importance of creating a conducive atmosphere in the community where the formees can mature in a response that is ever more responsible and free.

12-13 September was set apart for the Junior Sisters gathered in Dum Dum and Sr. Nieves and her collaborators presented them the *Guidelines* in an experiential manner highlighting the importance of assuming the proposals of the document with a deep sense of belonging to the Institute. Sr. Nieves recommended them in a special way to deepen their personal encounter with Jesus and to live always in a state of discernment.

On 14 and 15 Sr. Nieves and her team visited the Novitiate, Ranchi and had the encounter with the Novices and the Sisters. She exhorted the Novices to become aware of their Fundamental experiences and Developmental Task during the time of Novitiate in order to give themselves totally to God and His Mission.

On behalf of the entire province, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to dear Sr. Nieves, Sr. Fisichella and Sr. Anelfreda for their loving and dedicated service, accompanying the formees and Sisters in their initial and ongoing formation with the attitude of Mary's motherly tenderness. May they continue to experience the presence of Mary the formator par excellence, in their formation ministry!

## **FMA Provincials Meet**

The FMA PCI Provincials met was held on 31<sup>st</sup> August at Auxilium outreach Centre, Bellefonte, Shillong. We were privileged to have Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, our Visiting Councillor from Rome with us. Together we reflected on the Governance and Animation of the Institute and in particular the Profile of the Visiting Councillor as suggested by our Mother General and her Council. The meeting was enriched by the sharing of each province on the animation materials and the questionnaire sent by the Centre for study and reflection.

The letter of Mother General, appealing to the Indian provinces for the urgent need of missionaries for Sri Lanka and Nepal was presented to the assembly. We reflected upon as to how the Provinces could reach out to these two areas sharing the resources both personnel and other resources. We have yet to make final decisions through a process of discernment.

I express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Isabella Suja, the Provincial of Shillong and Sr. Gemima and her Community for their caring and loving hospitality during our stay in Shillong.

## **Conference of the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family**

The Salesian Family Conference of Major Superiors of South Asia was held in Siloam, Shillong from 1-2 September 2018. This is a feature held once in two years. This coming together was to 'move ahead with one vision and mission' with the Salesian charism. Thirty Major Superiors with representation from the members of the Salesian Family of South Asia was warmly welcomed by Father Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB, Provincial of Shillong.

Fr. Maria Arokiam, the Regional Councillor of South Asia initiated reflections with the members on the evolution of ideas within the Salesian Family. Fr. Maria Charles, the Youth Pastoral delegate of the South Asia presented the theme of the forth coming Synod 'the young people, the faith and vocational discernment' and the thinking of the young people that is emerging from a sample of 4000 young people across India, who responded to the questionnaire that was circulated.

There was presentation by all the members on how they have been implementing deliberations of the mission statement of the Salesian Family Congress held in 2015 and the proposals made during the Salesian Family Conference of the Major Superiors held in 2016. The two days of reflection together as Salesian Family helped the Major Superiors to come together, reflect together and to forge ahead together.

### **Few proposal emerged from the meeting:**

- ✓ Every SDB Province will make efforts to form the Salesian Family Consult consisting of the SDB Provincial, the SF Major Superiors (or their representatives) in the juridical area of the SDB Province, the delegates of the SF groups, the Coordinators and Presidents of various associations of the SF
- ✓ Every SF Congregation / Province will ensure that the common initiatives such as the migrant ministry, family ministry, Nation Building and Ecological Initiatives are carried out not only in a few presences but in all the presences of the Province.

- ✓ Don Bosco School Network will accommodate all the Schools of Salesian Family members, first of all to come together for sharing the best practices, for animation and to work together on common issues.
- ✓ Invitation to participate in the forth coming meeting of NECDBS (National Educational Conference of Don Bosco Schools) given to all the members.

Dear Sisters let us give heed to these proposals and make it alive and active in every community so as to make our apostolate more fruitful. *(The minutes of the conference is attached on separate file for our reflections and planning.)*

## **Communications**

### **Meetings**

- ❖ Srs. Elizabeth Valliyil and Clara Saminathan will participate in the 5th National Educational Conference of Don Bosco (NECDBS) India on 28 September - 01 October, 2018 at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Potheri, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Srs. Regina Joseph and Celine Alexander will take part in the 51<sup>st</sup> National Convention and General Body Meeting of AINACS (All India Association of Catholic Schools). It will be held from 18 – 21 October 2018 at City Montessori School, Lucknow. The theme of the meeting is “ Emerging Challenges to Catholic Education and our response”.
- ❖ Salesian Family FMA PCI Meet 2018 will be held in the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, Kodambakkam, Chennai from 19 – 22 October 2018. The theme of the meeting will be “Salesian Family: Dream – Resource – Challenge” . It is organized by Rev. Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, General Councilor for Salesian Family. The participants of the meeting are Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, Sr. Elizabeth Joseph, Sr. Rosina Thekumkattil and lay representatives Ms. Ernestina Gomes (Past pupil), Ms. Elizabeth Sheila Gomes (ADMA) Ms. Lucy Ajay (Co-operator) and me.
- ❖ Meeting of the Animators and Principals will be held at Auxilium, Dum Dum from 13 - 15 Oct. 2018. The resource person for the same will be Fr. Michael Fernandes SDB

### **Retreat**

#### **Sisters’ Retreat – Auxilium Bandel**

27 December 2018 – 03 January 2019

Preacher: Fr. Varghese Kalluvachal SDB

#### **Animators’ Retreat - Auxilium Bandel**

14 – 21 January 2019

Preacher: Fr. Cletus D’ Souza SDB

Meeting: 22 January

Team Meet: 23 – 25 January at Auxilium Bandel

Provincial Council: 26 & 27 January



#### **Sincere Gratitude to:**

Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Formation coordinator and the Animator of the Provincial House, Dum Dum and the community Sisters for hosting a number of programmes and gatherings

- Provincial Team meet from 17 – 19 August
- Visit of Rev. Sr. Reboso Maria Nieves - General Councilor for Formation and her team Sr. Fisichella Maria and Sr. Miranda Anelfreda  
Welcome by the school children - 07 Sept.  
Meeting with the Animators - 08 -10 Sept  
Meeting with the Junior sisters - 12- 13 Sept

**Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:**

- ✠ Sr. Susanna’s Korah’s cousin brother Mr. Chacko who passed away on 17 August 2018
- ✠ Sr. Margaret Fernandes’s brother-in-law Mr. Santana de Araujo who returned to his Father’s home on 23 August 2018
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Brian Diamond SDB (85) from the Salesian Province of New Delhi on 16th September 2018.

**Prayers requested for:**

- 🙏 For sick sisters especially for Sr. Cecilia Tamba who is undergoing chemotherapy

**Feasts & Celebrations of the month:**

	05 - ST. MOTHER TERESA
	08 - NATIVITY OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY
	12 - HOLY NAME OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY
	14 - EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
	15 - OUR LADY OF SORROW
	21 - ST. MATHEW, THE EVANGELIST
	29 - ST. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

Dear Sisters,

As we have began the preparation for the Provincial Community Day with the theme “Beatitudes - The Road to Holiness” let us endeavor to live these Beatitudes, the path way to holiness in our community, with the young and the educating community. Let us strive to follow the exhortation our Holy Father Pope Francis to live a holy life. “Holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. Led by God’s grace, we shape by many small gestures the holiness God has willed for us, not as men and women sufficient unto ourselves but rather “as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” ( 1 Pet 4:10).

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA  
(Provincial)