

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/52/07/2020

July 2020

My Dearest Sisters,

Prayerful and Loving greetings from Auxilium Dum Dum!

We are still experiencing the world-wide Covid-19 and by now we have learnt to accept several changes in our daily lives as the 'new normal' as we have already crossed half of the year 2020. I am glad to note that during this period, the communities are becoming spiritually more active, spending more time in adoration, personal prayers, etc. imploring the divine healer to assist and protect the sinful humanity by his infinite mercy and compassion. This period of uncertainty has also given us a golden opportunity to simplify our lifestyles being satisfied with the most essential and to assume the responsibility for one's ongoing formation (cf. Province Project 2020-2021). As Mother General exhorted us in circular 996, "May we not let this opportunity escape us to grasp the beauty of the essential, to rediscover the value of moderation that helps us to live a sense of right measure in all we do and consume. Think of the many families that today suffer solitude, do not have the necessities of life, and suffer hunger. Let us thank Providence for what is given to us and, if necessary, let us distance from us any kind of claims and dissatisfaction and share with those who have less than us with a generous heart". Time has come for us to re-boot our thoughts, our consciences, our value system and build our lives on what really matters. We do not know when the situation will come to its normal rhythm but we trust in God who has blessed us beyond, in comparison to our suffering brothers and sisters around us. Let us therefore move ahead with deeper faith, sincere gratitude and live our mission in the current reality with greater enthusiasm and creativity. Thanks be to God many communities are already engaged actively in order to carry on with the school and other apostolic activities in the best possible manner but let us not forget to give importance to catechism and value education classes too.

Mother General in circular 999 invited each one of us, also to convert the time that we are living in into 'an hour of grace' in which we can listen to the promptings of the Spirit who speaks to the hearts of everyone. She exhorts us to pay attention especially to self-formation as an indispensable condition for renewal and apostolic fruitfulness. Formation is a gradual process that involves us personally and at all ages. The Constitutions clearly remind us of this: "Each of us has the primary and most direct responsibility for our personal formation" (C80). This means, "letting ourselves be shaped by everyday life ... until the moment of death". To achieve this, Mother General highlights the importance of faithfulness to the life of prayer and sacraments to shape and transform our lives according to the Spirit and to give relevant responses to the problems of today's world. Mother further invites us to make use of

this time for formation and self-formation within the community by caring for community relationship lived in the family spirit (cf.C 50). I would therefore invite all the communities to set apart sometime weekly for coming together as a community to study, to share and to pray together on a Document of the Church/Institute conducting a type of 'workshop' which will enhance the participation of all the members of the community and build up good rapport and genuine concern for one another and the mission. Then chalk out concrete steps/choices that can make the community a place of formation for all, a community that generates life, especially for the young people. To begin with, you can conduct a workshop on the "Working Document of GC XXIV" which I am forwarding to you. Let us keep in mind: "The holiness that we receive as a gift and that we are called to cultivate is not only personal holiness, but it is also community holiness" (Circ. 999).

I like to appreciate and thank all the communities for the initiatives so creatively planned have together with the staff to keep in touch with the children and young people and the parents of our school to reach out and to keep in touch every student. You involve the students to the creation of attractive and informative videos, on Laudato Si, on Gospel values, composing inspiring songs, conducting quiz etc. All these are means to prevent the students from falling to discouragement and despair but to face the present reality as an occasion for growing in faith and hope to look towards a future different from what they see today. Let us continue to forge ahead with greater faith and trust knowing that this time of corona virus is not going to last forever.

Feast of Bl. Maria Romero



On 7th July we commemorate the holiness of life of our sister Blessed Maria Romero Meneses (1902 –1977) of Nicaragua-Central America. From her childhood she learned a caring sensitivity towards the poor and towards other people's sufferings. Professed as an FMA at the age of 21, she led a tireless apostolic life, creating large-scale social works in Costa Rica, where she was sent to work by her Superiors. Her main concerns were for the Christian development and education of girls, women and especially mothers, taking material help and evangelization to poor families on the outskirts of towns and in villages, afflicted by economic hardships and moral decadence.

Her ceaseless activity did not prevent her from living prayer moments of deep intimacy and intense adoration. She was also gifted with mystical experiences. May we look up to her to inspire and guide us in our ministry, particularly in the education and empowerment of girls and women especially in today's reality.

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, celebrated on July 16, was first instituted in the late 14th century in commemoration of the approval of the rule of the Carmelite Order a hundred years earlier. According to legend, a religious community was established even before the time of Christ on Mount Carmel. This is the mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea on which the prophet Elijah



successfully challenged the priests of Baal and won the people to the true God. The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel entered the Calendar of the universal Church in the early 18th century.

The brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, according to the Carmelite tradition, was presented by Our Lady to St. Simon Stock, the then Father General on July 16, 1251. Our Lady gave St. Simon a scapular for the Carmelites with the following promise, saying : "Receive, My beloved son, this habit of thy order: this shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace.

The Scapular is a sign which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and which stands for the decision to:- Follow Jesus like Mary:- Be open to God and to his will.- Be guided by faith, hope, and love.- To pray at all times-and To discover God present in all that happens around us. It is an expression of the belief that the bearers of the scapular will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayers of Mary. Let us also wear it with devotion and love and propagate this devotion among our catholic young people and their families.

Feast of St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu – 28 July

St. Alphonsa was born on 19 August 1910 to Joseph and Mary Mutathupadathu in Kudamaloor and was baptized Anna. As a child she was so much fascinated by the life of St. Therese of Child Jesus that she set the twin objective of becoming a “nun” and as well as a “saint” through the practice of prayer and penance. However an aunt who had brought her up since the untimely death of her mother had marriage in mind for her. It was only in 1928 that she finally joined the Clarist Convent in Bharanaganam as a postulant taking the name of Alphonsa. She entered the novitiate in 1930 and took her vows on 12 August 1936. Incidentally illness in various forms as well as misunderstandings and helplessness were to trouble her entire life and formation. Yet her virtues of steadfastness, concern and patience coupled with her fervent devotion to Jesus and Mary and to St. Therese and to St. Chavara Kurikose stood her in good stead. When she was asked by her Superior to pray for a permanent cure from her illness she replied “Let the Lord do with me as He wills, trampling over, wounding or piercing me, a humble sacrificial offering for the sake of a world that is steeped in the pursuit of pleasures, and for priest and religious who are growing less fervent in their spiritual life. Let St. Alphonsa be an inspiration for all of us to offer our life as pleasing sacrifice to God for the salvation of the young.



Communications:

Congratulations! 🌸 Congratulations, Prayers and Thanks to the jubilarians of the year! Let us implore God's choicest blessings on these our dear Sisters for their life of fidelity and generous self-giving in the service of the Lord. Since this year we are unable to hold a common jubilee celebration let us offer a Holy Mass in all our communities on 05 August in gratitude for the gift of these sisters and for their intentions. I also take this opportunity to wish all of you **Happy Foundation Day** of our beloved Institute and the anniversary of Religious Profession to all those have made your first Profession on this day.



🌸 I would like to place on record my appreciation and congratulations for **the good results** of all our schools. A sincere note of thanks to all our sisters, teachers and the students who spared no stone unturned to achieve this great accomplishment.

Hearty Welcome! 🌸 We extend a joyous and affectionate welcome to our two sisters Sr. Bontila Makdoh and Sr. Bella Balabeth Sten from the Provinces of Guwahati and

Shillong respectively to form part of our Province. We are grateful to the Provincials Sr. Elizabeth George and Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal and the sisters of Guwahati and Shillong Provinces for their bounteousness.




We extend a warm return home to Sr. Bridgit Chettri after 3 years of her stay in Rome and the completion of her studies in Salesian Spirituality. We wish her God's blessings for her future mission as assistant of the novices at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi.


Retreat 🌀 Seven Aspirants Anandina Dung Dung, Aruni Xalxo, Hemlata Tigga, Kalpna Lakra, Mahima Theresa Barla, Rachita Nayak, Rashmita Baa will make their retreat from 20- 23 July 2020 at Auxilium Aspirantate, Bamunmura and on 24 July they will receive the Postulancy medal. Let us pray for the candidates in the formation house and intensify our prayers for more vocations.


Provincial Team 🌀 Few changes are made in the Provincial Team for its efficient functioning and animation of the Province. We are grateful to the sisters for their willingness and availability to accept the new responsibility and sincere appreciation and thanks to the outgoing members for having carried out the animation of the sectors with generosity, dedication and commitment.

Name of the Sector	Outgoing Team Member	New Appointment
General Coordinator	Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil	Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel
Youth Pastoral	Sr. Inocencia Jojo	Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis
Education	Sr. Elizabeth Makil Sr. Stella Potteparambil	Sr. Lily D' Souza Sr. Basanti Ekka

Past Pupils	Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel	Sr. Rejina Joseph
Social Ministry		Sr. Mary Puthuppallil
Vocation Pastoral (Kolkata Zone)		Sr. Margaret Barla

Sincere Gratitude  We thank Sr. Maria Pettayil and the community of Vasant Vihar for having helped the Province to prepare for the feast of Mary Help of Christians with novena practices.

 We appreciate the effort of Sr. Sherely Kalapurayil and Sr. Anima Xalxo, the CMTs (Chief Master Trainer) of our Province for coordinating webinar on Child Care Facilities (CCF) in collaboration with CMTs Sr. Sujatha Mary (INT), Sr. Isabella Alphonse (INM) and Miss Riney Rachel South Regional Coordinator from Miracle foundation from 09 June to 29 June 2020. 13 sisters participated in the training program from 11 communities.

 We applaud the initiative taken made Sr. Alma Bilung, the KSSDS coordinator of the Province to get fund with the aid of NDF (National Development Forum) to reach out to the victims of Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan in the areas of Barasat and Monsada.

† Let us remember with gratitude and fond memories our dear Sr. Cecilia Tamba on the occasion of her first death Anniversary on 20 July 2020.

† **Condolences** - Let us pray for our dear departed Ms. Mary Joseph (80) the mother of Sr. Teresa Karakkal who passed away on 22 June 2020.

Dear sisters,

Mother Yvonne has invited us through her Circular No.999, to stir into flame the gift of God that we have received and allow the Holy Spirit to act, renew, re-create in us through our relationship with God and one another. At this juncture it is important to remember the word of St. Paul, "Let us do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". (Phil 4:6 -7) Therefore, let us be the voices of our people and the entire world before God, the Almighty during this unprecedented time of human history.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)