

# 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/50/05/2020

May 2020

Dearest Sisters,

## Loving and prayerful greetings for a very holy and fervent month of May!

*“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). During this period when the whole world is living this extraordinary and unprecedented situation due to pandemic COVID 19, as Pope Francis said, “we have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented each of us in need of comforting the other”. We need to call on God and cry to Him for His mercy.

Under this circumstances dear Sisters, many of you were really blessed by the grace of making your Annual Retreat. Every Spiritual Retreat is a golden opportunity for us to take stock of our lives and to make an inner journey in the company of our Blessed Lord and be transformed into His likeness. The Animators and Sisters, (77) of you, had a unique experience of making this retreat in your own respective community set up with the help of digital media.

*Amidst the lockdown period when the whole world is inactive, the door to God was open for you. Undoubtedly you have benefited much from these days of deeper intimacy with the Risen Lord and have become*



more aware of your own fragility on the one hand and the steadfast love of Jesus on the other. May the unique experience of these days spent in fervent prayers and reflection on the Word of God and the Constitutions help each of you to live your vocational commitment with greater joy and fidelity! May Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello keep alive in you the zeal and the enthusiasm of the *da mihi animas*, and nourish and touch the lives of many young people, finding new ways and means to reach their hearts! May Mary our Mother and Teacher help you to be faithful to the commitments assumed so as to grow day by day in holiness!. I was indeed happy to have received your feedback on how this Retreat helped you to have a unique experience of journeying with the Risen Lord to regenerate new life and set new goals and look forward to the future with new hope. I sincerely thank you dear sisters, for your whole hearted participation and collaboration in the realization of this Holy Retreat. It was a time of great grace for you, for your community and for the Province at large.



## Month of May - Feast of Mary Help of Christians

Month of May, Month of Mary Help of Christians! For us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians the month of May has a special significance as it is rightly called the Salesian month because it is flavored with Salesian holiness beginning with the feast of St. Dominic Savio, followed by the Birthday of our

saintly Mother Mazzarello and her Feast day culminating with the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, the Feast of our Province too.

Mother General in Circular 996 states: The reality we are living and that worries us for the present and the future brings us back to the trust and faith of Don Bosco in Mary Help of Christians. Our Founder always turned to her in the certainty that the Mother grants the necessary graces to her children and even obtains miracles.

It is moving to remember the words pronounced in that distant 1862 to Fr. John Cagliero, "Our Lady wants us to honor her with the title of Mary Help of Christians. The present times are so sad that we really need the Most Holy Virgin to help us to conserve and defend the Christian faith" (MB VII, 334). In various circumstances, Don Bosco suggests invoking her by praying the Novena as an irresistible means in the certainty that Mary intervenes efficaciously in the history of humanity redeemed by Jesus. Mary is the 'Mother of the Church' and as such she is present. We must be convinced of this in the depths of our heart and make her 'work'. She who is active and caring, will not cease to help us and sustain us. The present times are so sad that we really need the Most Holy Virgin to help us to conserve and defend the Christian faith" (MB VII, 334). In various circumstances, Don Bosco suggests invoking her by praying the Novena as an irresistible means in the certainty that Mary intervenes efficaciously in the history of humanity redeemed by Jesus.

There were sad times yesterday and difficult times today. In this hard trial, we are called to live with Mary and like Mary, this page of history, internalizing the stages of her life, certainly not easy, lived in fidelity to the requests of God, and thus rediscover her attitude of hope, to penetrate events with the same faith that accompanied her to her to say her supreme 'YES' (Cir. 996).

Therefore, my dear sisters cultivate in us Mary's attitude of faith hope and charity and her perfect union with Christ our own and pray constantly to Mary interceding her assistance to deliver the world from this pandemic and save us. Let us also increase our love for her and imitate her virtues and pass on this devotion to the young people.

Salesian tradition offers us ample means for fostering devotion to Our Lady. The first and most important of these is to create in and around us a deeply Marian atmosphere which will reflect the Marian spirituality of our Institute so that Our Lady will shine forth in our communities as "The model" to which we must all conform. Let us therefore, make use of every opportunity to make Our Lady known and loved.

### **Birthday and Feast of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello Mazzarello**



The birthday and the feast day of St. Mary Mazzarello invites each of us to follow her life of daily holiness in expressing our love for God and one another. She also stands before us, a completely Marian soul, enveloped in the light of our Lady from childhood to death. When Pope Pius XI was proclaiming the heroic nature of her virtues, he said: "There is something great in a life that develops and unfolds under the guidance of such a Mother". In fact, Our Lady was for her the living incarnation of the ideal of sanctity which she always kept before her eyes. She held this ideal up to the Sisters and girls as well so that they could feel our Lady's attraction, and

love her and strive to imitate her virtues. The characteristic mark of St. Mary Mazzarello is her humility, profound consciousness and continual union with God, tender love for Mother Mary, simplicity of life, and hard work. She was but a peasant girl, a village seamstress, a great person endowed with remarkable virtues of genuine charity, profound faith, and unending joy. Her life, though simple, was always projected onto great and high ideals and therefore, it continually points to new goals of reaching the heights of holiness.

She continually invites her daughters and girls to conform oneself to this goal of life. In one of her letters, she said "To us religious, it is not enough to save the soul, we must make ourselves holy and make many other souls with our good holy works waiting for us to help them ». (L.18,3). Mother Mazzarello progresses with obstinate patience and tenacity on this path. Therefore, she invites us also to recall to the clarity of the motivations and to support the commitment of our religious and spiritual maturation, to avoid making peace with our defects, instead to build small and constant steps towards holiness.

Like our Saintly Mother Mazzarello, let us resolve to make the goal of our spiritual journey to be Saints through our constancy in meeting God in our daily and simple circumstances of life and in every person we encounter. As we celebrate her feast, let us remind ourselves that she was not content only to bear the title "Daughter of Mary Help of Christians but she set herself the task of making Our Lady known and loved, of spreading her devotion, but above all striving to resemble her so as to be her true daughter.

*Let us celebrate all other feasts of this month with great fervor interceding their help for a deliverance of the world from this viral epidemic. **Feast of Domnic Savio,( 6 May ) St. Louis Orione (16 May) St. Leonard Murialdo (18 May) Blessed Joseph Kowalski (29 May) Ascension of Our Lord ( 24 May ) Pentecost (31 May )***

## **Communications:**

### *Appointments*

Mother General and her council have approved the appointment of Sr. Teresa Adampakallel as the Vice Provincial for a third term and Sr. Celina Alexander Virakodiyanal as the Provincial Councillor for the first term.

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the animators for 2020 - 2023.

#### **First Term**

Sr. Alphonsa Kachappilly	- Auxilium, Gobra
Sr. Annie Kannampuzha	- Auxilium, Mirik
Sr. Aquila Phawa	- Nirmala Niketan, Jaigaon
Sr. Nirmala Tigga	- Auxilium, Thecho
Sr. Rose Kureekattu	- Auxilium, Barasat
Sr. Stella Potteparambil	- Auxilium, Dum Dum

#### **Second Term**

Sr. Lily D' Souza	- Mazzarello, Ranchi
Sr. Mary Ekka	- Vicuna Nivas, Jumaikela
Sr. Teresa Pulickathadathil	- H.C. Auxilium, R.K. Puram

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

I express my sincere words of gratitude to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, Sr. Maxima Dungdung and Sr. Teresa Karakkal for their generous and dedicated service of animation in the communities of Auxilium, Dum Dum, Mirik and Gobra respectively. I also would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution offered by Sr. Gracy Parekattil as a Provincial Councillor.



## *Congratulations and Prayers*

- To our six postulants Alice Roseline Tirkey, Elina Minj, Nayna Agatha Kujur, Neha Beck, Neha Lucy Kujur and Ursula Kujur who will be entering the Novitiate on 24 May 2020. We congratulate them for their generosity in responding to God's call and pray for their joyful fidelity. I thank Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil and the community of Auxilium, Aspirantate for helping them to make this choice and accompanying them with joy and commitment. They will make their retreat from 16 -23 May 2020.
- Let us rejoice and thank God for the gift of our three Novices Anima Kujur, Martha Minj and Priyanka Toppo who will be making their First Profession on 24 May 2020 at Sacred Heart, Novitiate, Ranchi. As we congratulate them let us entrust them to the loving care of the Lord so that they may be committed to the one, who called them with joy and enthusiasm. My sincere thanks to Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and the Novitiate community for accompanying them to commit themselves to the Lord. Novices will make their retreat from 16 – 23 at Sacred Heart, Novitiate, Ranchi.
- Our twelve sisters
  - Sr. Joslin Xalxo - Bandel
  - Sr. Salomi Bhuinya, Sr. Lemnom Mosang  
Sr. Dominica Josephine Thapa, Sr. Rasni Tete } - Novitiate
  - Sr. Shashikanta Xalxo  
Sr. Restitula Kharpran } Dum Dum
  - Sr. Binita Bara  
Sr. Ranjita Nayak } New Chumta
  - Sr. Namita Sabhasundar  
Sr. Pranati Manjari Sabhasundar } Aspirantate
  - Sr. Rinki Nayak - Kurtumgarh

will be renewing their vows on 24 May 2020 in their respective communities. May they continue to serve the Lord with joy and enthusiasm. The superiors of the respective communities will receive the vows of the sisters. The sisters who will renew their vows will make one full day recollection on 23 May 2020.

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

- † Fr. Yeddanapalli Anthony Selvaraj SDB who went to receive his eternal reward from the Salesian Province of Hyderabad on 09 April 2020.
- † Maternal grandfather of Sr. Deepa Minj who passed away on 11 April 2020.
- † Mr. Joseph (48) the cousin of Sr. Cecilia Kollapally who suffered from a heart attack and went to meet the Lord on 12 April 2020.
- † Bro. Michael Condillac SDB (78) who returned to his eternal home from the Salesians of Mumbai on 12 April 2020.
- † Mr. Paul Sebastian, the cousin of Sr. Anna Varkey who died in New York due to covid 19.

† Sr. Philomena Solomon who was called to her eternal abode from the Province of Chennai on 28 April 2020.

† Ms. Josephine Minj (90) the paternal grandmother of Sr. Deepa Minj who passed away on 02 May 2020.

### *Prayers requested for:*

- 🌸 Sr. Sushma Kerketta's maternal uncle who suffered from a stroke.
- 🌸 Sr. Aruna Paulsamy's sister Ms. Stella who is suffering from various abdominal health issues
- 🌸 Sr. Abhai Kishori Minj's cousin sister who had a stroke and paralyzed
- 🌸 Let us continue to pray for the deliverance of our world from Covid 19, healing to those who are affected and protection of those who are taking care of the victims of the pandemic.

I would like to conclude my letter quoting the saints regarding the importance of praying the Most Holy Rosary.



✓ "Where the Rosary is recited there will be days of peace and tranquility." St. John Bosco

✓ "The Rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal and the spiritual and in that order." Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

✓ "Go to Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can ! Be souls of prayer." St. Padre Pio

✓ "Do not fail to put repeated emphasis on the recitation of the Rosary, the prayer so pleasing to Our Lady and so often recommended by the Roman Pontiffs." Pope St. Paul VI

Therefore, dear sisters let us have great devotion to our Blessed Mother and hold on to the weapon of Rosary in all our inevitabilities.

Wish you all a very Happy Feast of our Salesian saints St. Dominic Savio, St. Mary Mazzarello and Mary Help of Christians.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA  
(Provincial)

