

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/54/09/2020

September 2020

Dearest Sisters,

Prayerful and Loving greetings from Auxilium Dum Dum!

We are in the month of September in which we celebrate three liturgical feasts of Mary our Most Holy Mother. On 8th

September we celebrate her *birthday*, on 12th the *Holy Name of Mary* and on 15th Our *Lady of Sorrows*. On Our

Lady's birthday the Church celebrates the first dawning of redemption with the appearance in the world of the Saviour's Mother, Mary. It is from the sixth century that there is certain knowledge of a liturgical commemoration of Mary's birth is

known. Mary lived a largely hidden life, and her theological and historical significance remained somewhat veiled until the Council of Ephesus in 431 formally declared her the Mother of God. Since that definition, every aspect of her life has become the source of a rich spiritual and theological heritage. The Blessed Virgin occupies a unique 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. We too rejoice that the Mother of God is our mother and Teacher.



Mary's presence in the course of our Journey towards fullness of life

All religious Institutes consider Mary as a model of consecration and of the following of Christ (Cf VC 28). We FMA have in our very name the synthesis of the identity by which the Institute is characterized in the Church. The name contains two particular aspects: filial relationship with Mary and the mission in society and in the Church. 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. In as much as we are "daughters" we are called to live the daughterhood expressing it as trust in her maternal love and of being among the young people and in the world "a living memorial of Mary" (PF p. 30). We are daughters in as much we recognize that she is the Mother that she is present and takes care of each one of us. Jesus is the Son of Mary and we in Him are children of the Father and of Mary.

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. Mary with motherly care” (art. 7) accompanies the growth of Christians and in particular of her daughters in their journey of configuration with Christ. Hence we recognize her as mother and teacher of our Salesian vocation (Article 44). It is said that Mary is actively present in our live and in the history of our Institute. It is Mary who guides us, in Mary, the Immaculate Help of Christians, we contemplate the fullness of her self-giving to God and neighbor and to avoid the impression that it is a sterile contemplation and an end to itself, it further invites us to imitate her openness to God’s Word, to live as she did the beatitude of those who believe and devote ourselves to apostolic action that inspires hope.

A perfect example of the presence and action of Mary as Helper, educator and companion on our journey of transforming oneself 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. By the fact that we are educators we are called to become like Mary, a help and formative guide for young people. For us Mary is a paradigm of maternity who welcomes, intercedes, accompanies, shares, promotes life and relationships. Mary is the evangelizer because she is evangelized “totally modeled by the Word”. Like her we are called to live in complete harmony with the Word and to occupy our place in history dedicating ourselves responsibly to the formation of the new generations with her maternal Help.

Let us entrust ourselves totally to Mary our Mother and educator. Let us make her disposition of faith hope and charity and her perfect union with Christ our own and let us open our hearts to the joyous humility of Mary to be helpers, like her, especially among the young people. Mother General in her circular litter 1000 asks “who are the young people to whom we are sent today? Articles on ‘Sent for young’ we shall find the answers. Art. 65 say, ‘Our mission is directed towards young people of the working class at every stage of their development’. With preferential love of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello we dedicate ourselves to the poorest that is to those who for reasons have no chance of success in life. With the new era we are facing today due to the Pandemic, the children and young people are the ones most affected with schools and colleges closed, living in a virtual without social interactions, world they get frustrated, depressed, feeling hopelessness and facing economic, social and psychological crisis. Today we should be able to hear the same

mandate “I entrust them to you” and becoming for them a sign of God’s omnipotent love and hope bring a ray of joy and hope into the lives of the people entrusted to us in all our communities.

PCI Formation Meet

The online meeting on the Formation of Formators and the sharing of Guidelines and Itineraries for the Formation of Juniors and for on-going formation was animated for the Provincials, Formators and Animators of the seven Provinces of the Inter- Provincial Conference of India (PCI) from 24 to 28 August 2020. There were about hundred participants in the meeting. The meeting opened on 24 August with the prayer and greeting of Sr. Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, National Coordinator for Formation and Secretary of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle (INM). Our sincere thanks to Sr. Maria Nieves Reboso, General Councillor for Formation, who encouraged the participants to live the ministry of Formation with joy and to carry it out lovingly, "with the power of persuasion and love alone" (Const. 7) and with the heart of Maín who responded to the voice “I entrust them to you.” This was followed by an orientation talk on the spirituality of encounter.

We acknowledge with gratitude Sr. Tamizharasi who animated the three days program from 24 to 26 on the Psychology of Relationships based on the Transactional Analysis of Dr Eric Berne. The next day 27 August was animated by Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela and Sr. D’souza Philomena on the itinerary of the Community to accompany the Junior Sisters and Guidelines for inculturating the document Guidelines for the Formation Period. It was followed by the sharing and interiorization of the same by seven Provinces of India and Sr. George Elizabeth, the Provincial of INS concluded the meeting inviting the Sisters to become capable of holding the new wine – the Young FMAs in the new wineskins.

On 28 August we had the joy of the presence of Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, Visiting General Councillor who gave the introductory talk by encouraging the participants to grow in the authenticity of life, service to the poor, deep prayer life – connected with the Divine. Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas, Provincial of INB and Vice President of PCI finally presented the itinerary for Ongoing Formation, referring to the Formation Plan and Program of the FMA India in the current context challenged by internal and external forces including the Covid 19 pandemic on 28 August 2020. Our deep sense of gratitude to Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala and Sr. Tamizharasi, who coordinated the meeting with zest and joy

On 29 August 2020, there was a zoom meet of seven Provincials of PCI with Sr. Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, General Visiting Councillor. The meeting commenced with an orientation talk by Sr. Lucy Rose based on the exhortations of Mother Marinella Castagno to Mother Antonia Colombo when she took up the leadership of the Institute as Superior General. During the meeting there were also interesting interactive moments on our preparation for the celebration of the Centenary of FMA presence in India, a brief reflection on the forthcoming GCXXIV, the challenges and plan encountered during COVID 19 in the Provinces. May God bless our efforts and accompany us moment by moment.

Thanks and Congratulations to Sr. Mary Tamizharasi Kanickaraj, National Coordinator for Formation for the well-organized zoom meeting and to Sr Margaret Amalanathan, President, FMA-PCI, for her constant guidance and accompaniment.

SEASON OF CREATION



The Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical event held from 01 September to 04 October 2020. As Pope Francis explained in his Message of 1^o September 2019, the Time of Creation is “a period of more intense prayer and action for the benefit of the common home, the time to get used to praying immersed in nature, where gratitude to God the Creator arises spontaneously, the time to reflect on our lifestyles and how our daily choices are often reckless and harmful, and also the time to undertake prophetic actions, invoking courageous choices”. It is a month in which to prepare to arouse the awareness that “Creation is a project of God’s love for humanity”.

The impact of the pandemic forces us to seriously consider the need for vigilance to ensure sustainable living conditions across the earth. Hence, the invitation to celebrate the Time of Creation this year with the theme “Jubilee for the earth”: “The concept of the Jubilee is rooted in the Bible and underlines that there must be a just and sustainable balance between social, economic, and ecological realities. It shows us the need to rebalance the systems of life, affirms the need for equality, justice, and sustainability, and affirms the need for a prophetic voice in defense of the human home”.

Our Mother General Sr. Yvonne Rreungat in her Circular letter 961 states: “This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator. It is also a season to reflect on our lifestyles and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful”. As we celebrate this Season of Creation, I request all our communities to evaluate our ‘ethics of enough’ and focus on the initiatives which will maintain and enhance the greenery in our campuses and earnestly embark on this green path. (Cir. 961). Let us then dear Sisters, heeding to the invitation of our dear Mother General chalk out the programme for our communities to live this Season of Creation fruitfully involving our young people and our lay collaborators.

Communications:



Sincere Gratitude to

Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel, the General Coordinator for organizing the Team meet on 04 September 2020 at Auxilium, Provincial House for the Kolkata Zone team members and on 06 September 2020 for all the team members via webinar to plan the Province Calendar and the Provincial Community Day 2020. Very soon you will get the detailed information of the same.

• UpcomingFEASTS OF THE MONTH

12

• Holy Name of Mary

14

• Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15

• Our Lady of Sorrows

21

• St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

2

• Bl. Joseph Calasanz & Enrico Saiz Apricio SDB & Co

2

• Our Lady of Ransom

1

• Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

9

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- † Sr. Mary Ann Abraham at the demise of her brother-in-law Mr. George Rozario on 14 August 2020.
- † Fr. Reginald Thomas D'Silva SDB (68) who was called to his eternal home from the Salesian Province of Kolkata (INC) on 16 August 2020.
- † My cousin brother Mr. Varghese who passed away on 28 August 2020
- † Sr. Leela Pulickathadathil's dear mother Ms. Elikutty who concluded her earthly journey on 4 September 2020
- † Mr. Joseph, the paternal uncle of Sr. Annie Theyattil who passed away on 01 September 2020

Dear sisters,

I would like to conclude my letter inviting you to **entrust yourselves to the Archangels every day** because they played an important role in the history of salvation and also they play a significant part in our journey towards salvation. The angels "are before the Lord to serve him, praise him and also to contemplate the glory of the face of the Lord: Angels are the great contemplatives: they serve and contemplate, but the Lord also sends them forth to accompany us in the journey of life". Therefore, let us ask St. Michael to defend us from the power of the evil forces, Gabriel to give us good tidings and Raphael takes us by the hand and walks with us as our traveling companion along the journey of life.



Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)