

# 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/57/04/2021

April 2021

*My Dear Sisters,*

*Loving Easter Greetings to you from the Provincial House Dum,Dum,*

***Alleluia! Christ is Risen!***

We have lived through an extraordinary year that has demonstrated more than ever the importance of faith in life as we traversed through most difficult moments of the pandemic. Today once again we experience the joy and peace as we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. It reminds us that when we were baptized we shared in the fruits of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, as St. Paul says, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above not of what is on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col 3: 2-3).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is teeming with meaning for our lives especially at this time as we face the unprecedented time of uncertainty and struggle. His saving death and His victorious rising to new life are

God's answer to the sufferings of humanity. By the mystery of His passion, death and resurrection, God has come close to us in our suffering, and has conquered sin and death and every evil. In Christ God came close to us as one of us to redeem us, and he experienced our sufferings. This is no God who stands afar off, but one who experienced and shared in the fragility of humanity. The reality of Easter morning reveals to us a God who walks with us in the ordinary circumstances of life and a God who bountifully showers His love on humankind every moment of the day.

The three women in the Gospel came to the tomb wondering who would roll away the stone for them (cf. Mark 16:1-3). Perhaps they hoped the soldiers keeping guard would roll it away for them to allow them anoint Jesus' body. But when they reached there, the stone was already rolled away. It is good to ask ourselves whether we have allowed a stone to prevent us from meeting the risen Jesus. Whatever the case may be, we can be sure that when we are eager to meet Jesus with the same sentiments of the three women, the stone will be rolled away by the Risen Lord. Let us dear sisters believe in the power of Risen Lord. JESUS ROLLS AWAY THE STONE OF DISCOURAGEMENT. JESUS ROLLS AWAY THE STONE OF FEAR. JESUS ROLLS AWAY THE STONE OF DOUBT. JESUS ROLLS AWAY THE STONE OF SADNESS AND SORROW. JESUS ROLLS AWAY THE STONE



OF DEATH... We can add more stones that are to be rolled away by Jesus from our life so that we can see the Lord in all His glory.

In turn we too are called and chosen by the Risen Christ today to ROLL away the STONES from the lives of the young people especially those affected by the pandemic and its consequences. Let our lives be filled with the Spirit of Easter Joy, Peace and Love so as to contagion our young people with the same spirit of the Risen Lord. Wishing each one of you and all your near and dear one a very Holy and Happy Easter. May the Risen Saviour fill us all with renewed hope and happiness.

## *World Day of Gratitude 2021*

This year the World Day of Gratitude will take place on 25 April 2021 in Rome, at "Mother Angela Vespa" House, Pontifical Faculty of Education Sciences "Auxilium". The theme chosen is: Networked, for a culture of life. It is drawn from the experience of Don Bosco who gave rise to a worldwide network to create synergies in the educational mission. Our Institute was born in the awareness of being part of this great network of the Church and the world. The

concern to maintain the unity of the charism in all cultures, prompted Don Bosco to favor communication through Circular Letters, the dissemination of the Salesian Bulletin, the drafting of the Newsletter, the Institute Directory, and the visits of the Superiors.

The network, born from the small town of Mornese, has been growing and developing to guarantee its vitality and charismatic quality. The strong sense of belonging and the family spirit have given the FMA a clear awareness of their identity and educational mission in favor of the integral promotion of the young, inspired by the prophetic experience of Mary D. Mazzarello. Being online today is not only a need that comes from the charismatic identity, but it is one of the most precious resources to value our best creative energies in giving answers to the 'educational catastrophe' originated by the pandemic and social, political, and economic problems. In this context, Sr. Chiara urges every Educating Community to continue to support the educational mission with creativity and in all possible ways.

In response to the invitation of Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, the vicar general, let us unite ourselves with the whole Institute to raise a hymn of praise to God for our dear Mother General, for her tireless endeavor to promote unity in the Institute with such care and wisdom. The chosen gospel text, "the net was not torn" (Jn 21:1-11) helps us recall with gratitude the 'abundant fish' experienced in the Institute, thanks to the wise guidance of Mother Yvonne, who was able to keep together the 'net' of our Institute, a robust net that was never torn. Let us therefore thank the Lord abundantly, expressing it in a renewed commitment to educational service and co-responsibility in formation and in the mission. Sr. Chiara has also invited every community to compose a network of gratitude and hope to our Mother and to commit ourselves to promote a culture of life. In gratitude for all that she is to each one of us and to our Institute, let us offer a month of intense prayer for Mother Yvonne and for all her intentions, and entrust her life and mission to Mary, the inspirer and guide of our Institute. Wish you all a very Happy Feast of Gratitude!

FESTA DEL GRAZIE MONDIALE 2021



## *Communications:*

### *Congratulations!*



Mother General has appointed Sr Meenakshi D'Silva as the 8<sup>th</sup> Provincial of St Mary Mazarello, Bombay for the next six-year term of office. We congratulate dear Sr. Meena, the Provincial elect as she takes up her new responsibility of animation and governance of the Province and assure her of our prayer and God's abundance of blessings!



Congratulations to Sr. Stella Potteparambil, the animator of the ADMA of the Province for organizing a seminar online on 24 March 2021. With creativity and enthusiasm she presented to the participants the origin and development of the Association. A large participation especially of the lay people and members of the Association is praiseworthy. I encourage you dear sisters to start ADMA in all our communities to promote our love and devotion to our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians.







On Wednesday 24 March 2021, Pope Francis appointed Sister Alessandra Smerilli as undersecretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Sister Alessandra is a Professor of Political Economy at the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium" in Rome. Her commitment to the Church has led her to be part of the Scientific and Organizing Committee of the "Social Weeks" of Italy's Catholics, since 2019 she has been a Councilor for Vatican City, and since March 2020 coordinator of the Economy Task Force of the Vatican Commission for Covid-19, established by Pope Francis. As we rejoice and congratulate her at this appointment let us also support her with our prayers.

### *Towards commitment*

- ❖ The Annual retreat of the sisters will be held at Auxilium Bandel from 13 - 20 April 2021. It will be preached by Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS. 32 sisters will be participating in the retreat.
- ❖ Our 8 sisters will commence their second phase of the second Novitiate from 12 April – 12 May 2021 at Auxilium – Aspirantate. Let us keep them in our prayer.
- ❖ The Retreat of the temporary professed sisters, novices and postulants will be held at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi from 16 – 23 May 2021, preached by Fr. Biji Thomas SDB.
- ❖ The First Profession will be held at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi on 24 May 2020. Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascranas has accepted to preside over the Holy Eucharist.
- ❖ The Perpetual Profession will be held at Auxilium Parish Church, Kolkata on 26 May 2021.

## *Appreciation and Gratitude!*

-  Thanks to Sr. Lily D' Souza and the community of Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi for preparing the Novena practices for the feast of St. John Bosco and for animating creatively the Triduum celebration online.
-  Sincere appreciation and thanks to Sr. Teresa Mundackal and the community of Bareilly for the Novena in honour of St. Joseph. Through the Novena we were able to meditate the virtues of St. Joseph and prepare ourselves well for the feast especially as we are in the year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis from December 08, 2020 to December 08, 2021. Let us go to St. Joseph often and increase our devotion to him. Let us imitate his virtues of fidelity, dedication, silence, faith, prayer and love for Jesus and Mary.
-  The Annual Retreat of the Animators was held from 09 - 16 March 2021 at Auxilium Bandel. It was preached by Fr. Jose Kuttianimattathil SDB. This was followed by two days of meeting. We are grateful to Fr. Jose Mathew for helping the Animators to encounter the Lord in Word and Sacraments. I extend my thanks to Sr. Rosy Veliyan and the community of Bandel for offering our sisters a conducive atmosphere and warm hospitality.
-  The Annual Team meet was held at Auxilium Dum Dum from 7 - 8 March 2021. Preparation of the Province Project, Sectors Project, and Province programme, Seminar on Family Spirit, Thanksgiving and installation of the Provincial were the agenda of the meeting. Very soon you will be receiving further information. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel, the General coordinator for coordinating the meeting and also to Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the community of Auxilium, Dum Dum for hosting the same.

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

- † Sr. Pramila Ekka at the demise of her uncle Mr. Kamil Ekka on 10 January 2021.
- † Sr. Dominica Thapa at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Filix Thapa (45) on 19 January 2021
- † Sr. Alitricce Warjri at the death of her maternal uncle Mr. Michael Nelson Warjri (75) on 24 January 2021.
- † Sr. Shanti Palamoottil at the loss her paternal aunt Ms. Moly Thomas (62) on 31 January 2021
- † Fr. Jose Kuruvachira SDB and the Salesians of Dimapur Province at the demise of Fr. Cyriac Pulinthanathumalayil on 4 February 2021
- † Let us entrust to the mercy of God our dear Sr. Ernestina Quattri FMA, who was called to her eternal abode on 09 February 2021. She was a missionary in India and was in charge of our school at Auxilium, Dum Dum from 1960 - 1965.
- † Sr. Margaret Barla at the demise of her cousin brother Mr. Neerajan Barla on 10 February 2021
- † Sr. Anjana Luciana Rai at the passing away of her maternal aunt Ms. Durga on 13 February 2021
- † Sr. Mary Puthuppallil at the loss of her dear mother Ms. Elizabeth on 16 February 2021
- † Sr. Jenita Savarimuthu at the death of her grandfather Mr. Anthony Samy (93) on 26 February 2021

- † Fr. Jose Koyackal and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the demise of Fr. Mathew Thekkekara on 01 March 2021.
- † Sr. Nirmala Lazar and sisters of Chennai province at the demise of Sr. Arockianathan Mary Josephine (65) on 09 March 2021
- † Sr. Elizabeth Joseph at the loss her dear brother Mr. Thomas Joseph (94) on 21 March 2021
- † Let us pray for the eternal repose of Sr. Sherly (Mary) Chacko Valiamplakal who was called to her eternal home on 21 March 2021 who was a missionary from the Province of Mumbai in the City of Hope Community, Province of South Africa, Our Lady of Peace.
- † Sr. Rinki Nayak at the death of her grandmother on 29 March 2021
- † Kindly pray for my cousin bother Fr. Mathew Illimootil (84) who was called to his eternal home on 29th March 2021.

Feast of Easter, it is a feast of hope! The Easter hope continues on to today. An empty tomb can fill the world with grace. As we celebrate the feast of Easter let us never allow Jesus' rising to become an old memory or event we celebrate once a year, but an ever present and living resurrection that brings true courage and hope in our lives each day. Pope Francis tells us: it is encouraging to know that He walks ahead of us in life and in death. He goes before us to Galilee, that is, to the place which for Him and His disciples evoked the idea of daily life, family and work. Jesus wants us to bring hope there, to our everyday life. So let us respond to this call today. Allow Christ to resurrect our own heart and spread the good news, Christ is Risen! Alleluia ! Wish you all a Very Happy Easter !

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA  
(Provincial)

