

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/58/05/2021

May 2021

Dear Sisters,

Loving Greetings from the Provincial House Dum Dum !

Month of May, Feast of Mary Help of Christians

We have just entered into the month of May, the Marian month traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Help of Christians which has a very special significance for us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. From the very beginning, St. John Bosco, the great educator, placed his work as a priest and founder under the protection of Mary Help of Christians, to whom he turned for every need. His confidence in Our Lady's help and protection was greatest when things were difficult or confusing, and he would often turn to her, saying, "So, shall we begin to do something?". Don Bosco placed the Institutes he founded under her maternal protection: the Salesians of Don Bosco, and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and finally, the Salesian Cooperators. Our Lady Help of Christians is therefore inseparable from the great Salesian Family, which has given the Church a host of Saints, Blesseds, Venerables



and Servants of God. In 1862, Don Bosco said to Fr. Cagliero, one of his early Salesians, "Our Lady wants us to honor her with the title of Mary Help of Christians. The times are so sad that we need the Holy Virgin to help us preserve and defend the Christian faith".

Our Province has been specially protected by Mary Help of Christians from its very inception. "Mary Most Holy was the inspirer of our Institute and continues to be its Mother and Teacher. We are therefore a religious family that belongs entirely to Mary."(C4) The precious memory that Don Bosco left us regarding great devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians is two-fold. In the first place, Don Bosco wanted our Institute to be a living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. The second is a singular experience which Don Bosco had on his last visit to Nizza, Monferrato, on August 23, 1885. After the new Sisters had received their habits, and the young women had entered the novitiate, Don Bosco, moved to tears, spoke to the Superiors who had gathered there. Several times, Don Bosco repeated: "Our Lady is really here, here in your midst ... strolling in this House and the covers with her mantle." On her part, Mother Mazzarello also inspired our first Sisters, and is still an inspiration to us today, encouraging us to love Our Lady. Two specific memories that we hold dear are Mother Mazzarello's reference to herself as the Vicar to Our Lady, and her habit of calling Mary Help of Christians the true superior of the

community. The second is her simple but very meaningful act of placing the keys of the house at the feet of Our Lady every night, asking Mary's continued protection on the house and each of the Sisters.

Month of May is another occasion for us to reflect, realize and to revitalize our identity as Her true daughters. Mary was a woman filled with grace from the very moment she was conceived. Grace was the presence of God Himself, His energy and His Power in her life. She held on to that Grace which opened her to the Word, enabled her to ponder it in her heart and made space for its fulfilment in her life. When we preserve God's grace in our lives, His plans for us will be fulfilled. May God's mercy and grace come down to us from the throne of Queen of Heaven in greater abundance especially during this month!

Let us fervently turn to our Blessed Mother with filial devotion and trust and intercede for the entire world as it is facing the challenge of the second phase of Covid-19. These days our country too is experiencing the second wave of coronavirus which is more alarming and devastating than the first one. Pope Francis has asked that we make a prayer marathon to Our Lady during the month of May for the intention of an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, committed to the theme, "From the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God". The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter who was imprisoned, until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

On the 24th of this month, we will be celebrating the great solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, Mother, Teacher and Guide of our Institute, and the patroness of our Province. As we prepare for this great feast let us unite ourselves with the entire church to plead for the whole world and for our country in particular that it may be freed from this pandemic.

Feast of Dominic Savio "A giant of Youthful Sanctity"

In his short life span, Dominic Savio made a significant impact on the world with the simplicity of his holy life. His entire sojourn on earth was marked by simplicity, humility and a constant rapport with the Lord. His saintly attitudes were seen in his ways of confronting life even at a very tender age and his ways of relating to others always inspiring them to be better. His creative initiative of forming the Immaculate Conception sodality at a very young age of 12 is clear indication of his ardour to attract his friends and draw others towards God and His love.

This youthful saint gives us the assurance that Jesus is a person that we can always have a relationship with. We are made to be in a loving relationship with God and that's what our consecrated life too invites us. Imitating this great Saint, we are reminded to be constant in our striving for a life of holiness. Dominic in his life time acquired tremendous wisdom that gave him the impetus to remain faithful to his goal of achieving perfection. His own words "If I do not become a Saint, I am doing nothing" was indeed his guiding principle which he accomplished with constancy and love. To us he has given the



conviction that what matters in life is the faithfulness and constancy in little things not just the big accomplishments and achievements. He is indeed a model for all time and a great witness to the faith more with his life than words. By following his example, we also can become witnesses to the faith for others. Pope St. John Paul II writes how we can model ourselves after St. Dominic Savio. “Like Saint Dominic Savio, be missionaries of good example, good words, good action at home, with neighbours and colleagues at work. At every age we can and we must bear witness to Christ! Commitment to bear witness is permanent and daily.”

Birthday and Feast of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello

The birthday and the feast day of St. Mary Mazzarello invite 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, love her and strive to imitate her. 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”. We, her daughters are called to live like her the holiness of daily life.

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 living the identity of being a true FMA.

Communications

New Convocation of General Chapter XXIV: Mother General Sr.Yvonne Reungoat has once again convoked GC XXIV. It will begin in Rome in the Generalate with the official opening on 17 September 2021 and is expected to close on 24 October 2021. Mother General has confirmed once again the choice of the same theme: “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5). Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity. I am sure all of you received the Circular N.1008, the official convocation of General Chapter XXIV and have read it in the community already. Let us intensify our prayer for the realization and fruitfulness of the chapter.

Installation of the New Provincial of INB: The Installation of the new Provincial of Mumbai Province Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva will be held on 27 May 2021 at Mazzarello Youth Centre, Wadala. We wish Sr. Meenakshi God's choicest blessings and the maternal presence of Mary Help of Christians and the powerful assistance of St. Mary Mazzarello, to whom the Province is dedicated especially in this unpredictable times.

Seven invocations added to the Litany of St. Joseph: On the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1, Vatican added 7 new invocations to the Litany of St. Joseph, with the approval of Pope Francis. The initiative comes during the Year of St. Joseph which Pope Francis declared from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021 with the aim to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. The new invocations of St. Joseph added are Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of Salvation, Support in Difficulties, Patron of Refugees, Patron of the Afflicted, and Patron of the poor.

Appointments

Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment the following sisters as the animators for 2021 - 2024.

First Term

Sr. Adampakallel Teresa	-	Auxilium, Najafgarh
Sr. D' Souza Lily	-	Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi
Sr. Jojo Innocencia	-	Mazzarello, Ranchi
Sr. Kachira Mercy	-	Auxilium, Park Circus
Sr. Tirkey Rosalia	-	Auxilium, Aspirantate, Barasat
Sr. Valliyil Gracy	-	Auxilium, Kalyani

Second Term

Sr. Mundackal Teresa	-	Auxilium Snehadhan, Bareilly
Sr. Theyattil Anna	-	Auxilium, Kurtumgarh

Mother General and her Council have also approved the appointment Sr. D' Souza Lily as the Mistress of the Novices for the first Term, Sr. Palamoottil Shanti as the Province Economer for the first term and Sr. Chettayil Minimol Mary as the Province Secretary for the fourth term for 2021 - 2024.





I express my sincere gratitude to you dear sisters for your willingness and generosity in assuming the responsibility of animation and guidance as leaders of the communities. Let us support them with our prayers so that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by our Blessed Mother who is the inspirer of our Institute.



I place on record my sincere gratitude to Sr. D'Souza Lily, Sr. Makil Elizabeth, Sr. Mannookulangra Lucy, Sr. Palliparambil Leelamma, Sr. Thekumkattil Rosina, Sr. Tirkey

Rosalia for their generous and dedicated service of animation in the communities of Mazzarello- Ranchi, Auxilium - Park Circus, Auxilium-Najafgarh, Auxilium - Aspirantate, Auxilium - Kalyani and Sacred Heart Novitiate – Ranchi respectively.

 I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all of the hard work put in silently by Sr. Karakkal Teresa as a Province Economer with precision and dedication to settle the various issues concerning administration, finance, land and property for the past one year.

 I wish to *appreciate and offer my* heart-felt thanks to Sr. Tirkey Rosalia, who with much patience and love carried out the delicate mission of forming our novices for the past six years.

Thank you dear sisters, and may the Lord bless and reward you. “May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed (Ps.20:4).

Retreats and Renewals

The Retreat of the temporary professed sisters and postulants will be held at Auxilium, Aspirantate from 17 - 24 May 2021, preached by Fr. Biji Thomas SDB and the Novices will make their retreat at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi from 17 - 24 May 2021.

The following sisters will make their retreat from 17 - 24 May 2021 and renew their vows in the places of their retreat:

Sr. Xalxo Joslin, Sr. Xalxo Shashikanta, Sr. Bara Binita	- Auxilium, New Chumta
Sr. Maria Louis Suzan and Sr. Nayak Ranjita	- Auxilium, New Chumta
Sr. Kujur Anima and Sr. Toppo Priyanka	- Auxilium Aspirantate, Barasat
Sr. Minj Martha	- Vicuna Nivas, Jumaikela
Sr. Bhuinya Salomi	- Mazzarello, Ranchi



Congratulation and Prayers!



Vestition of our six postulants Baa Rashmita, Barla Mahima, Dung Dung Anandina, Lakra Kalpna, Tigga Hemlata, and Xalxo Aruni will be held on 24 May 2021 at Auxilium Aspirantate.



First Profession our eight Novices Kanhar Suchitra, Lakda Shanti, Lyndem Genevieve, Minz Rashmi Madhuri, Nayak Tulasi, Pradhan Agness, Pradhan Priyanka and Tirkey Udit will be held at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi on 24 May 2020 at 7.00 am. Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascranas has accepted to preside over the Holy Eucharist.



Final profession of our eight sisters Sr. Kharpran Restitula, Sr. Kuotsu Philomina, Sr. Mosang Lemnom, Sr. Nayak Rinki, Sr. Sabhasundar Namita, Sr. Sabhasundar Pranati Manjari, Sr. Tete Rasni, Sr. Thapa Dominica Josephine will take place at Auxilium Aspirantate, Barasat on Monday 24 May 2021. Most Rev. Thomas D' Souza, the Archbishop of Kolkata will preside over the Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am



I wish to express my thanks to Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and the community of Sacred Heart Novitiate for preparing our eight novices to say 'yes' to the Lord's invitation with joy and enthusiasm.

My deepest gratitude to Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil and the community of Aspirantate for guiding and preparing our six postulants to enter into the Novitiate

My special note of thanks and appreciation to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and Sr. Leelamma who took the responsibility of meticulously planning and executing the second phase of the Second Novitiate and preparing our eight sisters for this great day of their total and final commitment.

Let us pray for our dear Departed - Condolences to:

- ✠ Sr. Teresa Karakkal at the demise of her paternal aunt Ms. Rosy Dominic (80) who was called to her eternal home on 6 April 2021
- ✠ Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil at passing away of her cousin sister Ms. Sophy Kurian (61) on 6 April 2021 due to heart attack.
- ✠ Sr. Nirmala Lazar and sisters of Chennai Province at the demise of Sr. David Elizabeth (68) due to massive heart attack at CMC hospital 6 April 2021 and Sr. Sindhuraj Regina on 16 April 2021 in St. Thomas Hospital Chennai.
- ✠ Fr. Davis Maniparamben SDB and the Salesians of Delhi Province at the passing away of Fr. V J Sebastian, Vadakethannikal, SDB on 14 April 2021 in St. Jude's Hospital, Jhansi.
- ✠ Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB and the Salesians of Kolkata Province at the demise of Fr. Agapit Minj of Don Bosco Katihar Community on 15 April in Katihar Medical College Hospital due to Cardiopulmonary arrest, Most. Rev. Lucas Sirkar SDB, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Kolkata on 18 April 2021 and Fr. Sanju Mukul Kachhap SDB, Rector of Catholic Church Polsondamore on 29 April 2002 in Berhampore Hospital.
- ✠ Sr. Kishori Minj at the return of her maternal aunt Sr. Fulkumari Ekka to her eternal home 21 April 2021.
- ✠ Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and to the Diocesan Clergy of Kolkata at the demise of Msgr. Francis Gomes in Vianney Home on 22 April 2021
- ✠ Fr. Jose Koyickal SDB and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the demise of Fr. Thomas Panakezham on 24 April 2021
- ✠ Sr. Salomi Bhuinya at the demise of her maternal aunt Sr. Amuliya Nag on 01 May 2021.
- ✠ Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and the sisters of Tiruchy province at the death of Sr. Marie Bastian (91) on 01 May 2021.



Prayer Request

- ❖ For Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara who is admitted in the Holy Family hospital
- ❖ For the community of Auxilium Aspirantate, Barasat
- ❖ For all our sister's parents and family members
- ❖ For all our Salesian brothers who are in the hospitals as well as recuperating in the house
- ❖ For our educating community members
- ❖ For our nation and the entire world suffering from COVID 19

Let us send our prayers to the Almighty God for our suffering brothers and sisters for healing, protection and hope during this time of unprecedented suffering.

Wish you all a very Happy Feast of St. Dominic Savio, St. Mary Mazzarello and Mary Help of Christians. May they intercede for us, for our nation and the entire world and help us face the challenging time with courage and optimism.



Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
Provincial