



Cir/LP/04/11/2021

November 2021

Dearest and loving Sisters,

“Do not confirm to this world, but let yourself be transformed by renewing your mind, to discern the will of God, what is good, pleasing to Him and perfect” (Rom. 12: 2).

Loving Greetings from Rome !

Affectionate greetings to you all the way from Rome! Sr. Stella Potteparambil and I have just returned from Rome, and now I am happy to share with you the freshness of the great and charismatic experience of the General Chapter XXIV. First of all, I bring you the affectionate greetings from all the participants of GC XXIV, especially from the newly-elected Mother General, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola and the Mother emeritus, Sr. Yvonne Reungoat and all the general councillors. A warm loving greetings and blessings from our Holy Father Pope Francis. Sr. Shradha Kispotta too sends her wishes to all; she expresses especially her gratitude for having supported her with our prayers during her illness.

I am glad that you were able to participate in the Chapter and be present with us in the virtual platform. It was indeed a key moment for evaluation, reflection, sharing and guidance in the path of the Charism and Spirit. Thank you so much for your powerful prayers that accompanied and supported us throughout the chapter and during our journeys.

General Chapter XXIV

“Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity”.

The 24th General Chapter of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was officially inaugurated on 17 September 2021 at 10.30 a.m. (Indian time) with the solemn Eucharist celebrated by the Rector Major emeritus Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva. He said that it is above all a Pentecostal event, “a strong time of verification, reflection and orientation for a community searching for the will of God”. He led us with the words of St. Paul to the Romans 12: 1-2, “Do not confirm to this world...” His words of wisdom encouraged and inspired the Chapter Members to live this time of grace in docility to the Holy Spirit, to be open to the Holy Spirit in order to have the experience of Pentecost during the Chapter.

The event continued with the procession of the national flags of 97 countries where the FMA are present. We in India are fortunate to work in three nations, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Mother Yvonne warmly welcomed all and retraced the journey and the processes in preparation for GC XXIV highlighting the great trust in God's times and in the fabric that is being woven in the heart of contemporaneity to be generative communities of life and hope in the diversity of contexts and environments. She said, “Today we are here all together, representing our different and complex realities in the five continents. The profound communion between us constitutes a strength and is an evident prophetic sign. Generativity is the mission of Mary who desired,

generated, and guided the Institute throughout its history. She made explicit the objective that the FMA Institute proposes: *To re-awaken the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of the FMA Institute*, as we enter into 150 years of its foundation. Mary is actively present and continues to walk with all of us as she did in a surprising way in the life of our Founders.”

Cardinal João BRAZ de AVIZ, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, shared with the assembly the profound admiration aroused by the work of the Institute in preparation for the General Chapter valuing its charismatic richness and its commitment to be in the Church a concrete sign of synodality at the service of the poorest.

Fr. Pascual Chávez Villanueva presented the message of the Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime who focussed on trust in God and openness to the Holy Spirit.

Messages from the members of the Salesian Family: Past Pupils, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, VDB and Salesian Youth Movement who could not be present due to the pandemic were read by the General Councilors. Mother Yvonne declared open the XXIV General Chapter of the FMA.

The historical event of GC XXIV was solemnly concluded on 24 October with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, with the greeting and the prayer that GC XXIV be a generative experience of life and hope for the Institute and a trampoline to relaunch the Salesian charism towards a better future, fruitful with life and hope for young men and women of the whole world.

The journey of reflection and study of the three nuclei of the theme of GC XXIV:

- Vocational Communities - ‘A Yes’ that is renewed over time
- Synodal communities as in Mornese and outgoing
- Prophetic missionary communities

Reflections on the nucleus were carried out systematically in the commissions. We had an intense experience of sharing, listening, constructive dialogue, thinking together, and discernment. La Madre in her concluding talk rightly said, “Participation in GC XXIV was certainly for all of us an experience of faith and a school of formation that does not leave us as it found us.”

I look forward to share with you our enriching experiences and the enlightening content during the dissemination of the chapter.

Sincere Gratitude and Congratulations

At this juncture, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Mother General emeritus, Mother Yvonne Reungoat for her loving, vibrant and tireless animation of our Institute for 13 long years with her motherly tenderness, wisdom, and the commitment of a world leader. We express our sincere thanks to all the dear General Councilors and the visiting Councilors:

Sr. Rebozo Maria Nieves

Sr. Miranda Maria Luisa

Sr. Deretti Alaide

Sr. Moreira Maria Helena

Sr. Boullosa Silvia

Economer General Sr. Tallone Vilma

Secretary-General Sr. Cavaglia Piera

The Visiting Councilors:

Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose

Sr Pece Mariya

A special note of thanks to our dear Sr Lucy Rose Ozhukayil for her guidance during the canonical visit to our Province, and above all for her constant support and accompaniment. A huge 'thank you' to dear Sr Vilma Tallone, without whose intervention we would not have gone to Italy to participate in GC XXIV. A word of gratitude to the animator and the sisters of the Generalate community for all the preparatory work done to create a favourable environment for the Chapter. We experienced the warmth of welcome and the joy of belonging to a large and beautiful family, our Institute.

We join with the entire institute to praise and thank God for the precious gift of the newly elected Mother General Mother Chiara Cazzuola. She was born on 6 May 1955, at Campiglia Marittima (Tuscany), Italy; made her first profession in Castelgandolfo on 5 August 1975 and graduated herself

in literature. In her 46 years of religious life as FMA, she has served the Institute as an Assistant, Teacher, Principal of Secondary School, Local and Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Youth Sports Clubs (PGS), Youth Pastoral Coordinator and an Animator. After the unification of the three Provinces of Emilia, Liguria and Tuscany she became the Provincial Councillor for formation from 2001-2007, Provincial of the Province of Madonna del Cenacolo (ILS) from 2007-2008 and Visiting General Councillor from 2008-2014. Endowed with the qualities of gentleness and meekness in establishing relationships she is noted for her delicate attention to each Sister, dedication, optimism, cheerfulness and ability to grasp the seeds of life and hope in each person and event. She served as the Vicar General of the Institute from 2014-2021. In the XXIV General Chapter, she was elected as the tenth successor of Mother Mazzarello. Let us accompany her with our prayers and filial support.

We are also delighted to greet, congratulate and assure our prayers to the newly elected general Councillors, who will lead us forward in our journey of fidelity:

Vicar General	: Sr GRACIAS RIBAS Maria del Rosario
Formation	: Sr MORAES (de) NILZA Fatima
Youth Pastoral	: Sr BORJA GALVE Runita
Salesian Family	: Sr SANDIGO Leslie del Socorro
Mission Ad/Inter Gentes	: Sr MORA VELAZCO Ruth del Pilar
Social Communication	: Sr DE SIENA Maria Ausilia
Economer General	: Sr BOLANOS Ena Veralis
Visiting Councillors	: Sr BATTAGLIOLA Paola
	: Sr INOUE Maria Sumiko Assunta
	: Sr NEVES Phyllis
	: Sr MUKASE Ruzagiriza Chantal
	: Sr STRZELCZYK Lidia
	: Sr. JACOB Celine
	: Sr. RICCIOLI Marta Liliana
Secretary General	: Sr NICASTRO Maria Luisa

We are at the threshold of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute, and the centenary of FMA presence in our motherland. Our Blessed Mother accompanies us on the path of synodality looking at the future with hope and trust. We have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit and the accompaniment of Mary Help of Christians during the General Chapter XXIV. We are incessantly reminded of the call “I entrust them to you” and the fidelity to this call is witnessed through all generations especially that of our Sisters who have the great responsibility.



Communications

Synod on Synodality - On 10 October 2021, with the solemn Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, in the presence of a large number of people, consist of cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, and laity, Pope Francis opened the Synod of Bishops on the theme: “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission”. The celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take place in October 2023. In his homily, the Holy Father recalled the meaning of the word Synod – “To be Synod means to walk on the same path, to walk together.” He invited the audience to reflect the following questions as he kicked off the synodal journey. “Do we, the Christian community, embody the style of God, who walks in history and shares the events of humanity? Are we ready for the adventure of the journey or fearful of the unknowns? Do we prefer to take refuge in the excuses of ‘it’s no use’ or of ‘it has always been done this way’?” As we begin our synodal journey with the church and as an institute after our General Chapter with the same theme running through let this period be a “a



time inhabited by the Holy Spirit” heeding to the invitation of our Holy Father, “let us invoke the Spirit with more strength and frequency and let us humbly listen to Him, walking together as He, creator of communion and mission, desires, that is, with docility and courage.”

PCI President and Vice President: On 10 October 2021, Mother General has appointed Sr. Nirmala Lazar, FMA Provincial of Chennai (INM) and Sr. Meenakshi D’Silva, FMA Provincial of Mumbai (INB) as the President and Vice President of PCI respectively for the term of office 2021-2023.

We congratulate and offer them our support and prayers as they assume this responsibility. We also express our sincere gratitude to Sr. Margaret Mary Amalanathan the outgoing PCI President and Provincial of Trichy (INT) for the direction she offered to the FMA India in the past years. We are also grateful to Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas, the ex-provincial of Mumbai (INB) who wholeheartedly guided the FMA - PCI as its Vice President and to Sr. Little Flower Ambrose, the PCI Secretary for her noteworthy services rendered to the FMA - PCI in the past years. May the Lord bless you abundantly dear sisters.



Gratitude & Appreciation

- ❖ My heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Vice Provincial, who with love assumed the responsibility of the animation of the Province in my absence during the General Chapter XXIV.
- ❖ A sincere word of appreciation and gratitude to our dear Sr. Clara Saminathan, the national coordinator for education for the hard work and effort she put in to obtain the **Registry of Trade Mark “AUXILIUM”** to be recognized by the Government of India. The Certificate of Registration has been issued on 16 October 2021. I am sure all of you received a copy of the certificate via mail already. Let us thank the Lord for this great gift as we are preparing for the centenary celebration. We also thank Sr. Stella Potteparambil, the former the national coordinator for education for having paved the way for it. May God bless you dear sisters!
- ❖ 17th FMA-NDF Annual Meet was held at Seva Kendra, Kolkata from 21 to 25 October 2021, we being the host Province. The theme of the meeting was “Sustainability practice and environmental stewardship towards to reduce COVID-19 impacts”. 23 Sisters from all the provinces of India participated in the Annual Meeting. Sr. Alma Bilung, Sr. Sherley Kalapurayil and Sr. Anand Tirkey joined from our Province. The special invitees for the inauguration of the FMA – NDF meet were Most Rev. Thomas D’Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata, Fr. Jijo John SDB, the Provincial Economist of Salesian Province of Kolkata, Sr. Dibyendu Sarkar the former IAS officer, Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Vice Provincial, Sr. Shanti Palamootil, the Provincial Economist, Sr. Rose Kureekattu, Animator of Auxilium - Barasat, Rev. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ, the consultant of NDF and Sr. Arokia Mary Selvi, the National Development Coordinator. We appreciate and thank Sr. Rose Kureekattu and the community of Auxilium, Barasat especially Sr. Alma Bilung for making all the arrangements for the FMA - NDF Annual meet an enriching and memorable one to all the participants.

- ❖ In the 2nd year of preparation for the 100th anniversary of FMA presence in India (1922-2022), we have the theme “*Accept the mandate: I entrust them to you. To revive the Salesian family spirit and strengthen community communion.*” To deepen the theme, we had four webinars conducted in the Province in four groups for all the 150 Sisters of the Province from 5-7pm., on 24 July, 14 August, 28 August and 11 September 2021. As we know the speakers of the webinar developed the following four topics: *Family Spirit as lived at Valdocco; Family Spirit as lived in Mornese; Family Spirit as delineated in the Constitutions; Family Spirit as lived by the first FMA missionaries in India.* I am sure all of you profited much from these days of sharing. We place on record with much appreciation the speakers of the webinars: Sr Francesca Ekka, Sr. Deepa Minj, Sr. Rosy Veliyan and Sr. Maria Goretti Ekka, Sr. Mary Ekka, Sr. Aquila Phawa, Sr. Nirmala Tigga and Sr. Maria Pettayil, Sr. Mary John, Sr. Aruna Kispotta, Sr. Shanti Tirkey and Sr. Teresa Pulickathadathil, Sr. Prema Lourdu Francis, Sr. Basanti Ekka, Sr. Emilia Vas and Sr. Lucy Kachira. We also would like to say a big thank you to General co-coordinator of the province Sr Lily Perumpekkunnel for organizing the webinars and the moderators Srs Stella Pottetparambil, Celine Alexander, Rosalia Tirkey and Teresa Adampakallel for directing the webinars with competence. Thank you dear sisters for having helped the entire Province re-live the family spirit in our communities.
- ❖ A word of appreciation to Sr. Clara Saminathan and Sr. Celina Alexander for preparing the video on the visit of Mother General to India and on the activities of the Province respectively for GC XXIV.

Meetings and Seminars:

- ❖ Sr. Teresa Adampakallel participated in the online CRI-WBS (Conference of Religious India- West Bengal & Sikkim) on 5 October 2021
- ❖ Sr. Gracy Valliyil, Sr. Mercy Kachira, Sr. Alphonsa Kachappilly, Sr. Innocentia Jojo and Sr. Rosy Veliyan are participating in the course on Formation of Formators at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore from 01 November to 28 November 2021. The contents of the course as follows: The person of the Formator, Assessment of Candidates, Vocational Motivation & Discernment, Psycho-Cultural aspects of Formation, Formation to Prayer, Consecrated Life, Psychology of Human Development, Enneagram and Community Building, Psycho- Sexual Integration & Celibacy, Group Counselling.
- ❖ There will be the juniors’ meet at Auxilium - Aspirantate from 6 -10 November 2021.
- ❖ I will be participating in the Annual Meet of Bengal Regional Bishops’ Council (BRBC), Bengal-Sikkim Regional Conference of Religious India (RCRI) & Conference of Diocesan Priests Bengal (CDPB) from 09-11 November 2021 at Dhyana Ashram. The theme chosen for this year is Family: Mystery & Ministry (A Social, Biblical, Ecclesial, Pastoral and Faith Formative Model of the Family)

- ❖ Sr. Pranati Sabasundar will be attending a course at Ishvani Kendra, Institute of Missiology and Communications, Pune for the formators from November 21 – 18 December 2021 with the topic: New Challenges and Skills in Formation.

Transmission of GC XXIV

S.No	Date	Place	Group
1	12- 15 November 2021	Jaigaon	Sisters
2	01 – 04 December 2021	Dum Dum	Sisters
3	10 -13 December 2021	Vasant Vihar	Sisters
4	18 -22 December 2021	Dum Dum	Animators
5	05 -07 January 2022	Bandel	Sisters

Annual Retreats

Please find below the details of the Annual Retreats in the Province and take note of it.

S. No	Date	Place	Group	Preacher
1	28 December 2021 - 04 Jan 2022 Departure on 07 January after 4 pm	Bandel	Sisters	Fr. Thomas Vattathara SDB
2	14 – 21 March 2022	Kurseong	Animators	Fr. Biji Thomas SDB
3	11 - 18 June 2022	Kurseong	Sisters	Fr. Biji Thomas SDB

Let us pray for our dear Departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Usha Kiran Tirkey at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Martin Tirkey on 14th August 2021.
- † Sr. Pramila Ekka at the demise of her maternal aunt Mrs Filishita Xalxo on 18 August 2021.
- † Sr. Elizabeth Joseph at the return of her cousin sister Sr. Alicia Anchalakal SMI to her eternal abode on 25 August 2021

- † Sr. Rose Mathew at the demise of her elder brother Mr. Mathew (88) on 20 August 2021
- † Sr. Juliana Rozario at the passing away of her cousin sister Ms. Florence Rozario (66) on 27 August 2021 due to heart failure. She was a teacher at Auxilium, Bandel for 23 years.
- † Sr. Premika Tirkey at the return of her maternal grandmother Ms. Martha Xess (87) to her eternal home on 31 August 2021
- † Kindly entrust to the mercy of God my cousin brother Mr. Pappachan (69) who passed away on 01 September 2021 due to heart attack.
- † Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal and the sisters of Guwahati Province at the departure of Sr. Rita Chatterjee on 15 September 2021.
- † Srs. Elizabeth and Gracy Valliyil at the demise of their cousin sister Ms. Mercy Mathew (55) on 24 September 2021
- † Sr. Margaret Ghosh at the eternal home return of her brother-in-law Mr. Sushil on 28 September 2021.
- † Sr. Bridgit Chettri at the passing away of her paternal grandmother Ms. Padma Kumari (87) on 19 October 2021
- † Sr. Amali John at the demise of her brother-in-law on 22 October 2021 due to high blood sugar.
- † Sr. Dorothy Torcato at the return of her brother-in-law Dr. Anand Saldhana to his heavenly home on 01 November 2021 due to heart attack.
- † Sr. Celina Alexander at the demise of her father Mr. Alexander on 04 November 2021

Dear Sisters,

We just celebrated the solemnity of all the saints, a day on which all of us are reminded to walk on this same road that leads to the Kingdom of God and to happiness. Pope Francis highlighting the Beatitudes, the path followed by the Saints invites us to live in humility, compassion, meekness, justice and peace to attain eternal happiness. He says, a Christian's joy is not a passing moment of happiness or optimism, but one grounded in the certainty of facing all life's situations under "God's loving gaze", drawing courage and strength from it and "there is no holiness without joy." Therefore, heeding to the invitation of Pope Francis, let us radiate joy in our own lives, becoming prophetic witness in our lives by putting His Word into practice.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial