



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
Mary Help of Christians Province - INC
Kolkata - India



Provincial Circular

Salesian Sisters, Auxilium Convent
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum, Kolkata - 700028



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My dearest and loving Sisters,

Loving greetings to you from the Provincial House, Auxilium Dum Dum,

December is an important month for all of us; it is the season of Advent leading us to the joyous celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and the great feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts, homes and communities for Christ's birth. It is a time to revive our faith in the incarnation of Jesus and how He could be born again in our communities and families. We welcome this great event through prayer, reflections and good deeds of sharing and caring to express what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is to everyone.

Traditional Advent wreaths and candles

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the season of Advent. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The light symbolizes the transformation of oneself from the various types of darkness to the light of Christ.

1. The Candle of **Hope** signifies God's people. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the HOPE we have in Jesus.
2. The Candle of **Peace** indicates the Old Testament prophets whose life-like light shines in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the PEACE we find in Jesus Christ.
3. The Candle of **Love** points to John the Baptist. He in turn points out to the true light Jesus Christ, the Messiah. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the LOVE we have for Jesus Christ.
4. The Candle of **Joy** directs us to Mary the mother of Jesus. She is like a candle shining in a dark place that brought forth Jesus to the world. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the JOY we find in Jesus Christ.



The 5th candle represents the **Birth of Jesus Christ**. The flame of this candle reminds us that He is the light of the world and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of true light.

Hail Mary and the Mission of Don Bosco

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin. On this day, in the Church of St Francis of Assisi Turin December 8, 1841, a humorous incident opened the way to put into action the project of Don Bosco for the boys, who roamed the streets of the city, especially those released from prison. On the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, when Don Bosco was vesting to celebrate the Mass, Joseph Comotti, the sacristan, seeing a boy in a corner, asked him to serve the Mass. But the boy did not know how to serve the Mass and was completely embarrassed. With this encounter, Don Bosco opened his way to put into action his project. A couple of things are worth perceiving, the sacristan suspecting the boy of being no good drives him out with blows, and Don Bosco intervenes and claims that the boy is his friend. There all it began as we see today, the hundreds and thousands of young people and children in our courtyard. Today, like yesterday young people are looking for the presence of Don Bosco in this contemporary era of fast-developing technology. Dear sisters, therefore let us enter into their realities of life and offer hope, love, joy and peace in this great season of Advent as we are preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas, the feast of love, peace and joy. This is the apt time to make a shift of transformation from carelessness to a diligent and committed life. During this season we are called to be alert and watchful in order to revive our spirit of enthusiasm and zeal for an intimate union with God and learn from Him by sitting at the feet of the Master, Jesus the Good Shepherd, to become more and more having only one aim "Da Mihi Animas Cetera Tolle".

Communications

- ❖ Junior's meeting was held from 25 – 28 November 2022 at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum. I am appreciative and indebted to Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the community of Auxilium, Provincial House for their availability and generosity at all times added with joy and sacrifice.
- ❖ The Annual Retreat for the sisters will be held at Auxilium, Bandel from 31 December 2022 - 07 January 2023. It will be preached by Fr. James Chacko SDB. The arrival of the sisters will be on 28 December 2022 and the departure on 07 January 2023. Let us send our prayers ahead and implore the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the preacher and the 55 sisters who will be making their retreat.
- ❖ I will be leaving for Rome on 06 January 2023 to attend the New Provincial's meet which will be held at the Generalate from 09 - 21 January 2023 and will return on 02 February 2023. Kindly keep me in your prayer and in my absence, please do feel free to contact Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, our Vice- provincial for any inevitability.



- ❖ Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel too will be leaving for Rome on 06 January 2023. We wish her all the best and God's choicest blessings as she has opted to render her service outside our Province.
- ❖ Sr. Aruna Paulsamy, Sr. Anima Xalxo and Sr. Pranati Sabasundar will be participating in the Gifted Counselling Course at Nirmala Retreat Centre, Kulathuvayal, Kerala from 26 February - 10 March 2023. The resource person of the same will be Sr. Elsis Mathew MSMI

Let us pray for our dear Departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Pushpa Lakra at the demise of her brother Mr. Anthres Lakra (75) who passed away on 24 November 2022 and her aunty Mrs. Fulmani Kispotta (85) who was called to her eternal abode on 23 November 2022.
- † Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of New Delhi Province at the demise of Fr. Joseph Chittattukalam SDB on 27 November 2022.
- † Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the sisters of Bangalore Province at the sudden demise of dear Sr. Crescentia D'Almeida due to a massive heart attack on 27 November 2022.

Christmas is an invitation to adore the Son of God who became Word made flesh and dwelt among us and He is the foundation of our joy. Pope Francis says the birth of Jesus is a reminder that we are loved first by God without any merit of our own. It is only through humility that we can come to God and recognize the true meaning of life and the reason for our existence. Everyone is called to seek God, and through God's grace to find Him. During Christmas, all of us are invited to come to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God-made-man. God comes without weapons, without force, because he does not want to conquer, but rather wants to be freely received by the human being. God makes himself a vulnerable Child to overcome pride, violence and the human desire to possess. As we contemplate, the Babe of Bethlehem we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility and simplicity of the heart of God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

