



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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Dearest and loving Sisters,

Prayerful greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum!

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pope Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. "The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Saviour shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. Veneration on our part is of knowledge, love and adoration. Invocation is our request, petition or prayer. Imitation is to become like Christ in words and in action, to live and act as Christ did. The month of July invites us all to become more of Christ in our attitudes, in our demeanour, in our ways of doing things and in our life style.

FOND MEMORIES OF OUR DEAR SR. ROSE MATHEW

The Home-going of our dear Sr. Rose Mathew, the 'Smiling Rose', is still fresh in our mind. During the past 88 years of her earthly life and 62 years of religious life, she prepared a castle in heaven by making the best use of all the opportunities given to her by the family, the Institute and the Church. During these last months of her life, purified by the persistent back pain and other age-related problems, she prepared herself to meet the Lord serenely and peacefully. How many blessings and graces she might have obtained for us by offering all her painful sufferings for our sanctification, for the needs of the Province and the Institute! Her daily spontaneous prayer for all the Sisters of the province especially for the provincial might have resounded in every corner of the communities. We thank her for her exemplary life enveloped by the never fading smile on her face which revealed the innocence of her soul. As we continue to pray for the eternal repose of our dear Sr. Rose, let us emulate her fidelity in little things and her love for the Institute and the respect for the superiors, her serenity and calmness, her commitment and total self-giving, her sense of gratitude and delicacy of conscience, her approachability, simplicity and motherliness, above all her deep love for Jesus and Mary. Our

stalwarts are passing away one by one. It's up to us now to take up the challenge and take the Salesian charism forward ever more creatively, as we are about to enter into the next century of FMA presence in India.

“I ENTRUST THEM TO YOU”

We welcome the mandate with renewed awareness as we prepare ourselves to renew our ‘YES’. Let us follow the preparation journey outlined by our Institute for the 5th August 2022 on the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute. We have been prepared well from month of May onwards, which helped us to reflect on the Constitutions – a gift of Mary. Let us discover the treasure hidden in the Constitution as we read it daily. By now we have found the depth of our father and founder Don Bosco by going through the articles very closely. Let us also discover the richness of the Word of God that lies in the constitutions. Every aspect of the article has the Word of God that challenges us and calls for a deep commitment and dedication. Let us therefore really be authentic religious according to the desire of our beloved Mother Mazzarello.

The month of June called us to focus on art. 49 of our Constitutions. It radiates all about our living and working together. In the spirit of the family... the Trinitarian aspect... and the new commandment by which we will be known as Jesus’ disciples. As we prepare for the renewal of our vows, we could all make an introspection of ourselves and of our communities to see where do we stand in this regard of living and working together... Let us make concrete step for oneself and get back to our origins where everyone thought of pleasing God and doing His holy will alone. Let us really get rid of all our infirmities and renew ourselves with a renewed commitment and enthusiasm.

During this month of July we are challenged by the life of the Apostle of India, St. Thomas, a man who was ready even to go and die with Jesus. Just because of him we are called ‘blessed’. He cleared all his doubt. Are we courageous enough to clear all our doubts and go ahead for the Lord and for His kingdom? Are we ready to prepare castles in heaven by giving life to the poor and vulnerable or are we still wrapped in our comfort zones? Let us think seriously and examine ourselves, each one about herself, not about others, and see where do we stand, where is our focus, for whom did I leave everything and followed Jesus?

SAINTS - OUR SPIRITUAL GUIDES

The saints who have gone ahead of us have lived a life given for others, they were ready to undergo anything for the sake of Christ and His kingdom and thus obtained the joys of everlasting life. Blessed Maria Romero whose feast we celebrate on 7th July gave herself entirely to the poorest, living fully the virtue of hope and trusting in Providence. In her tireless work of charity, which led her to start thirty-six festive oratories, social works, homes for homeless families, a clinic for medical assistance to the poor, the virtue of hope did not fail to shine. Despite the trials and difficulties encountered, faithful to the charism of the Founder, St. John Bosco, “*she hoped against all hope*” (cf. Rom 4:18). Let us imitate her total abandonment

to the love of Jesus and Mary, whom she called her 'King and Queen' and dare to do the impossible for the sake of the poor and the needy.

On 26th July as we celebrate the feast of the **Grandparents of God, SS. Joachim and Anne**, we entrust all grandparents and grandchildren to their care and protection. Mary learned from them how to reflect deeply on the Word of God and she absorbed that Word — body, mind, and soul. This feast tells us how important the strong and faithful example of our parents, our first models of faith, is for us.

In the life of **St. Alphonsa** whose feast falls on 28th July, there shines the mystery of the cross. Far from considering sufferings and evil to be avoided at all costs, Alphonsa founded in them an effective means of sanctification. She not only accepted without complaint the extra ordinary physical suffering, and even asked more. The greatness of our life does not consist in doing laudable things before the world but leading a saintly life. St. Ignatius of Loyola whose feast we celebrate on 31st July on the other hand, teaches us to put Christ and the Church in the centre; to allow ourselves to be conquered by Him in order to serve; to feel the shame of our limitations and our sins, in order to be humble before Him and before the others. The Catholic Church honours these saints because they are believed to be men and women of "heroic virtue", who are considered to be spiritual guides and mentors to us who are still pilgrims on earth.

Dear Sisters, we have become religious, first and foremost to work out our own sanctification and then the salvation of souls. Let us therefore leave aside all our pettiness and live a life worthy of our call, leading a life of heroic virtue, focused on Jesus, Mary and our holy founders and saints. Now is the favorable time for us to renew 'our first yes' seriously and re-commit ourselves to a life of Salesian holiness. Let us entrust each other to Mary our Mother and Teacher so that we be truly authentic "images of Mary" inspiring each other to re-dedicate our lives in the path traced out by our Constitutions. Let us pray for each other daily and support one another in doing as much good as possible in the Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello way. Wish you all a very Happy Feast of the celebration of our 'yes' on 5 August.

Communications

Appreciation: Thanks to Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the Renewal Committee of the Province for organizing the online meet on 'DOCIBILITAS' on 04 June 2022. We are also grateful to Sr. Edna Mary Macdonald FMA from the Province of Australia, the resource person of the same for her availability and instilling in us the beauty of living docibilitas in our day to day living.

New Provincial: Heartiest congratulations and prayers to Rev. Fr. Clive Justin Telles SDB who is appointed by the Rector Major as the 4th Provincial of the Salesian Province of Panjim (INP) on 21 June 2022. We assure him of our prayers as he take up his new responsibility of animation.

Retreat and Initiation of Postulants: Our candidates will be making their Annual Retreat at Auxilium Aspirantate from 20-24 July 2022. It will be preached by Fr. Roby Sarkar SDB. On 24 July five aspirants Abha Kishori Tirkey, Bilasini Pradhan, Daffodil Nayak , Lily Syngkli, Sumira Dung Dung will receive the Postulant's medal. Let us support them with our prayers.

Junior's Meet: Junior's Meeting will be held at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum from 26 -29 July 2022.

Team Meet: The Team meet will be held on 31 July from 09 am - 05 pm for the Kolkata zone members.

Intensive Juniorate: Sr. Salomi Bhuinya, Sr. Suchitra Kanhar, Sr. Alice Rosline Tirkey, Sr. Shashikanta Xalxo will leave for Guwahati on 8th August for their Intensive Juniorate which will commence officially on 13 August 2022 at Auxilium, Provincial House, Guwahati. We wish them God's blessings and enriching experience.

AINACS Meeting: 53rd National Convention & General Body Meeting of All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) will be held at St. Xavier's High School, 4, Rajniwas Marg, Delhi from 18 to 21 August, 2022 with the theme: "holistic education for Social change". Sr. Basanti Ekka, Sr. Celine Alexander, Sr. Clara Saminathan, Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara and Sr. Shanti Tirkey will participate in the meeting.

Studies: Sr. Lyndem Genevieve and Sr. Pradhan Agness will be leaving for their Nursing studies (GNM) in the first of August 2022 at St. Augustine's School of Nursing, Chapaguri, Bongaigaon, Assam.

Let us pray for our dear Departed - Condolences to:

✠ Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Dimapur Province (IND) at the demise of Fr. Pottukalam Mathew SDB on 14 June 2022 at Srishti Hospital, Dibrugarh - Assam.

Dear Sisters,

On the 24th of July 2022, the Catholic Church will celebrate the Second World Grandparents and Elderly. Pope Francis, in his message titled "In old age they will bear fruit", he invites grandparents and elderly people to be 'artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world', 'poets of prayer for those who cry of pain and those who suffer' and 'an enduring chorus of great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life'. (see attach: Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly) Pope Francis also noted the role of

Grandparents when speaking at 2015 Youth Eucharistic Movement event: "... the grandparents are a source of wisdom; because they have the memory of life, the memory of the faith," He encouraged the young people to listen and learn from the old and the elderly. Therefore, dear sisters we too have in our communities our elderly sisters who possess the wisdom of old, experience of life and mission. Let us learn from them and may their presence be an enlivening and encouraging presence among us. Dear sisters, who have journeyed the long way you can still bear fruit by not fearing old age, but as the scripture teach us see old age as a loving expression and goodness of God. The Lord promises His continued love and concern for the elderly. "I will be your God throughout your lifetime, until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you (Isaiah 46:4). Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31). Hence, let us be companions in our journey of our life sharing life and bringing down blessings on each other.



**'In old age they will still
bear fruit'** Psalms 92:15

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial