



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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02 AUGUST 2023

Dearest and loving Sisters,

Loving greetings to all of you from the Provincial House, Dum Dum

We enter into another new month, the month of August, glorious and significant, as we celebrate the Marian feasts of Our Lady of Snows, the Assumption into Heaven, and her being crowned as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. As I wish each and every one of you a happy month let me journey along with you reflecting on holiness, to go beyond intellectual knowledge.

1 Peter 1:13-25 calls all people of faith to live a life of holiness. Literally, holy living means that the Christian lives a life that is set apart, reserved to give glory to God. It is a life of discipline, focus, and attention to matters of righteous living.

Foundation Day of Our Institute

On 05 August we celebrate with joy the **Foundation Day of our Institute**, a memorable day for us. It was on this day in 1872, dedicated to our Lady of Snows, in Mornese, Alessandria, Italy, the first Daughters of Mary Help of Christians gathered around Don Bosco and Mgr Joseph Sciandra, the Bishop of Acqui, made their first profession. On this same day, St Maria Domenica Mazzarello was also elected as the first Superior General of the Institute. It is a day to recall the story of God's love and the pact He made with Mother Mazzarello and each of us. A day like this reminds us, of our task and responsibility to revive and renew continually the gift of our Salesian vocation and to live in fidelity to the rich heritage we have received from our founders. Fidelity to the charism implies accepting the project of the founders, assimilating it, preserving it and bringing it alive, and continuously enriching this charismatic patrimony through our lived personal and community life, making it our very identity. Identity is the central aspect of our auto consciousness (self-knowledge), the interior consistency of the person which permits her to be aware of her uniqueness at the same time her diversity in relationship with others and reality.

St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello reminds us that we need to be good, give good examples and really work at becoming holy (Cf.L.26). This is the greatest challenge we ever have to live a holy life. Mary our mother teaches us all how to be holy in our day-to-day lives by doing God's will from the start of the day till the night. Our beloved Mother Mazzarello has given us a shortcut

how to be holy and it's so easy: "Do everything in the right time, right place and right intention" that is to do everything only to please God alone.

On 15 August we celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and 77th Independence Day of our country. Mother the Church invites us to contemplate the special privilege granted to the mother of God on account of her unique corporal and spiritual union with her Son, Jesus. The mystery of the Blessed Virgin Mary's bodily Assumption into heaven, "shows us that God wills to save the whole human person: body and soul."



At the end of her life, Mary was taken 'body and soul' into heaven; her body 'did not know the corruption of the grave.' This privilege, 'gives us the confirmation of our own glorious destiny.' This is the Christian doctrine of the 'resurrection of the body,' which Pope Francis described as an 'element proper to Christian revelation and the pivotal element of our faith.' If we live in this way, in the joyful service of God, which is expressed also in generous service to our brothers and sisters, on the day of the resurrection our destiny will be like that of our heavenly Mother. It will be given to us, then, to realize fully the exhortation of Saint Paul: "Glorify God in your body!" (1Cor 6:20) and we will glorify him forever in heaven.

Through the powerful intercession of Mary assumed into heaven, the liberated woman, let us pray for our beloved country India that all her citizens may enjoy true freedom, peace and prosperity! Let us implore her special assistance and support for the suffering people of Manipur. Let us remember to pray for our Leaders, to promote peace, love, harmony and fraternity. We shall entrust all our leaders to our Master, Jesus the true Leader. True leadership comes from spiritual leadership; where there is no game rather allowing everyone to have wholeness and holiness.

Let us pray to Mary the Queen of Peace to work in us and in everyone so that we may all gain the wisdom of the heart that goes out to alleviate the suffering of those at the fringes of our society and those who are at the periphery. These may be in our own communities, in our mission field among the staff, young people and women. May all the knowledge we have, the titles we acquired, and the positions we hold never prevent us from being simple to make visible the love of God through our words and our lives. Let us focus on reproducing Salesian holiness, the common legacy of the Family by living: "Give me souls and take away the rest"

To Lisbon with hope

The XXXVII World Youth Day will take place from 01 to 06 August in Lisbon (Portugal) with the theme, "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). It is an event in which Mary of Nazareth invites everyone, especially young people, to walk the path of proximity and encounter in the context of humanity tried by the trauma of the pandemic and torn apart by the drama of war. It will certainly be an opportunity for the participants to welcome the beauty of cultures, to celebrate unity in diversity, to listen together to the voice of the Lord who invites everyone to stand up, to let themselves be involved in His dream of life, of hope, of peace, of fraternity without borders in favour of the neediest in the world.

As the Salesian Youth Movement, about 200 young people from many countries will meet on 02 August to dialogue with the Rector Major, the Mother General, and with each other on how to make their presence at the world level more significant. On that same day, over 8,000 young people will participate in "SYM Day", the SYM Day that includes a moment of celebration on the theme "Come, see, and celebrate" and which will culminate with Eucharistic adoration and a "Goodnight" from the Rector Major and Mother.



COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations!

With the entire Institute and Salesian Family, we praise and thank God for the appointment of the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco Rev Fr Angel Fernandez Artime SDB, as a Cardinal in the consistory on 30 September 2023, at the Vatican. We assure him of our prayers that will accompany him in the delicate commitments that await him.

The first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held in the Vatican from 04 to 29 October 2023. Sr Yvonne Reungoat, Mother General emeritus of our Institute, is on the list of participants among the experts and facilitators. We rejoice at this trust and faith; that Pope Francis bestows upon Mother Yvonne. We shall support her with our prayers in her added responsibility.

Diamond and Golden Jubilee!

We congratulate and felicitate our diamond jubilarian Sr. Mary Sarkar and Golden jubilarians Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel, Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel, Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and Sr. Teresa Mundackal on the occasion of their Religious Profession on 05 August. We thank the Lord for their dedicated and enthusiastic religious life and promise them of our prayers and wish them a fruitful mission in their journey ahead.



I also take this opportunity to greet all those who keep the anniversary of their first and final commitment on 05 August!

Meeting and Seminars

- ✦ The FMA PCI YaR coordinator Sr. Manisha Parmar (INB) is organizing a Teacher Training program from 28 February - 04 July 2023 in collaboration with Global Leadership English Academy (GLEA) under the guidance of the Curriculum Directress Ms. Beverly D'SA. The purpose of this training program is to empower teachers to deliver the program with dual language resources, to engage children and to make language learning an experience of discovery. 15 sisters (Sr. Rinki Nayak, Sr. Anima Kujur, Sr. Anima Xalxo, Sr. Neha Beck, Sr. Siljera Marak, Sr. Anand Kumari Tirkey, Sr. Ursula Kujur, Sr. Sandhya Minj, Sr. Neha Lucy Kujur, Sr. Ranjita Nayak, Sr. Ba-i-thiang, Sten, Sr. Binita Bara, Sr. Priyanka Toppo, Sr. Namita Sabhasundar and Sr. Martha Minj) and 6 teachers from our province are benefiting from this program.
- ✦ Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara attended the workshop organized by "Alert Knowledge Service" on School Quality Assessment and Assurance (SQAA) on 29 July 2023 at Radisson Hotel, New Delhi.
- ✦ The Social Communication Sector of the Province will be organizing a Social Communication Workshop and Seminar from 11 -14 August 2023 at H.C. Auxilium - Vasant Vihar with the theme 'Sensible use of social media for authentic and honest media presence'. 23 sisters will be participating in the seminar.
- ✦ The NDF will be organizing a training program from 15 - 18 August 2023 and it will be held at Auxilium, Kurseong. Sr Alma Bilung and two lay staff will be participating in the training program.
- ✦ A meeting will be held for the Major Superiors of West Bengal and Sikkim Region with the Regional CRI (WB & S) at Nitika Don Bosco, Calcutta on 20th August 2023. Sr. Rose Kureekattu will attend the meeting.

Sincere Gratitude

Appreciation and thanks to Sr. Mary Ekka and the community of Auxilium, Gobra for hosting the meeting for the sisters professed in 2010 to 2023 from 19 - 23 July 2023 and the retreat of our

senior sisters Sr. Elizabeth Makil, Sr. Susanna Korah, Sr. Mary Sarkar and Sr. Margaret Ghosh from 27 July - 03 August 2023. A word of appreciation to Fr. Remesh Cherian SDB and Fr. P.V. Thomas SDB for facilitating the meeting and retreat respectively.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Mary Sarkar at the demise of her brother Mr. Isidore Sarkar (75) died on 06 July 2023
- † Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the sisters of INK Province at the passing away of Sr. Lizy K.V. Kunnumpurathu (53) on 07 July 2023.
- † Sr. Rashmi Minz at the departure of her paternal uncle Mr. Boniface to his eternal abode on 13 July 2023.

Dear Sisters,

On 15 August, may the **solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** may help us to look to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended. According to Pope Benedict XVI: By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods, we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful. Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. The luminous sign of Our Lady taken up into Heaven shines out even more brightly when sad shadows of suffering and violence seem to loom on the horizon. Mary follows our footsteps with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, and reassures us with her motherly hand. [General Audience, August 16, 2006].

On 15 August, while we celebrate our independence, let us be aware of the problems that are prevalent in our country. Let us encourage and promote the values of democracy, equality, and justice and eradicate social discrimination, poverty, illiteracy, communalism, corruption, and other forces that jeopardize the peace in our country. Let's celebrate our variety, the biggest asset of our nation and embrace our rich cultural heritage on this Independence Day. Let's also pray for all the citizens of our country that we may enjoy and offer peace and freedom, especially pray for those who suffer in Manipur.

Let us forge ahead in our lives under Mary's guidance to be an instrument of peace and unity. **Wish you a happy feast of Assumption and Independence Day!**

Yours affectionately in Our Lady

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

