



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,
Warm and loving greetings from Rome, Mornese and Turin,

I thank the Lord for my enriching and fruitful experience in the Generalate during my course. We were 22 provincials coming from 4 corners of the world except for Oceania. The daily message of our beloved Mother followed by the general councillors' talk and group dynamism were indeed very enriching sessions. We had enough opportunity to know and understand each sector's functioning at local and world levels. It was a time for us to experience the real spirit of our holy founders from the sharing of the different sectors and Sisters.

La Madre shared with us the following common major topics which could be of great help for all of us in our personal and community life:

- Synodal style of animation and governance: this was based on the Gospel of Mark 1:14-20. In a nutshell, those who follow Jesus, experience that God fills nets, fills life, and multiplies resources, possibilities and energy.
- Poverty and the communion of goods: I can assure you says Mother Mazzarello, that the "Institute will have a great future if you keep yourselves simple, poor, mortified and self-sacrificing".
- Our Call and our Charism: Charism is not an individual gift but at the same time it calls for individual and community collaboration.
- The greatest sign of Generativity is presence: Don Bosco felt the need to see his children to cheer and encourage them through his presence.

Some other topics were: Servant Leadership, Mary's active presence, Solidarity, missionary vocations, Importance of Council and *Laudato Sii'*. Of course, a good bit of time was spent in personal prayer and reflection.

Dear Sisters, I want to thank you for your prayerful support in accompanying me on my journeys. This time I really had a wonderful experience at Mornese too, as I saw the hamlet of Mornese covered with ice and snow; I really imagined Mother Mazzarello walking on the snow-capped mountains to reach the church in order to meet her beloved Lord. Dear Sisters, I took each one of you with me to meet our beloved Mother Mazzarello. I was also fortunate to be in Turin during the Triduum of Don Bosco. I had enough and more time to be in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians and I remembered and entrusted to Madonna each one of you by name. I can sincerely say that wherever I went, I truly experienced the genuine Salesian family spirit of fraternity, love and concern. I witnessed the synodal style of living and working together in community, with the young, lay collaborators and others, in the spirit of the *da mi hi animas*. It was so edifying to see our very elderly Sisters, with much joy and enthusiasm, giving their life totally to the Lord.

I convey you the greetings from all the Sisters, especially from Mother Yvonne including the Sisters from India.

Our Lady of Lourdes and 31st World Day of the sick

On 11 February, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick in the church. Pope Francis has given us the theme for the XXXI World Day of the Sick: «Take care of him». Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing,” with an immediate reference to the evangelical figure of the Good Samaritan. At the beginning of the message, the Holy Father tells us:



**WORLD
DAY OF
THE SICK**

Take care of him

“Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if the illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane”. He continues to tell us through the parable of the Good Samaritan to “take care of him” (Lk 10:35). Jesus addresses the same call to each of us. He exhorts us to “go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God’s people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind. As we celebrate the World Day of the Sick it is an invitation for us to pray and be close towards those who suffer. *(Please see the attached: Message of His Holiness Pope Francis XXXI World Day of The Sick)*

COMMUNICATIONS

FMA-PCI meet will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Trichy from 14-16 March 2023, with the theme “With Mary reawakening the original freshness of vocational fruitfulness, placing ourselves in a state of ongoing formation”. Let us send our prayers ahead for the fruitfulness of the get-together as FMA India.

Congratulations!

Hearty Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the Provincial-elects Sr. Margaret Devadoss (INM) and Sr. Majella Fernando (INT). We assure them of our prayers as they take up their new responsibility of animation and guidance.

Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation to:

- Sr. Rose Ezarath and the community of Bandel for hosting the presentation of Acts of General Chapter XXIV and the Annual Retreat for 55 sisters from 31 December 2022 - 07 January 2023.
- Rev. Fr. James Chacko SDB for preaching the retreat from 31 December 2022 - 07 January 2023 with the theme ‘Renewal in religious life (Spiritual Banquet)’ and for having helped the Sisters to make their life a ceaseless prayer of praise and thanks, to become a God - centred and heart - centred person, in order to make community life more fruitful and to

embrace evangelical detachment from persons, places, things, and opinions in order to give themselves totally to the community and mission.

- Sr. Stella Pottaparambil for helping and guiding the sisters to take up the post-chapter journey by presenting the Acts of GC XXIV on 30 December 2022 with the theme “Community that generates life in the heart of contemporaneity” with enthusiasm and creative skill.
- Sr. Stella Pottaparambil and the community of Provincial House, Dum Dum for offering warm hospitality to the Provincial Team members from 12-15 January 2023 and to the participants of FMA-PCI, National Co-Ordinators for Education from 27 - 29 January 2023 with the theme “Network to Promote Global Compact on Education”.
- Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel, the General Coordinator of the Province for organizing the Provincial Team meeting to prepare the annual project and the calendar of the Province at Auxilium Provincial House Dum Dum from 12-15 January 2023.
- A word of thanks to Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and the community of Auxilium, Aspirantate for helping the Sisters of the province to prepare well for the solemnity of St. John Bosco concretely and meaningfully.

Let us pray for our dear Departed - Condolences to:

- † Rev. Fr. Joseph Pauria and the Salesians of Kolkata Province at the demise of Fr. Thomas Pulickal SDB (76) on 08 January 2023 at the Salesian Provincial House, Kolkata due to acute cardiac arrest.
- † Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the sisters of Bangalore Province at the passing away of Sr. Annie Kottaram (85) on 17 January 2023 at Sacred Heart Provincial House Bangalore.
- † I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Rt. Rev. Ignatius D Souza, Bishop of Bareilly, the Clergy, Religious, Laity, relatives and friends who mourn at the passing away of Bishop Emeritus Anthony Fernandes (86) of Bareilly at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ghaziabad on 03 February 2023. May he enjoy eternal happiness.

Dear Sisters,

Lent is a time of preparation for us to deepen our relationships with God. It is an opportunity to repent for our sins and ask for God’s forgiveness. It is a time to ignite and strengthen our journey to holiness. I would like to invite you to take up this journey inspired by the saints who walked before us. St. Teresa of Calcutta says, “As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus’ thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love and the chance to love you.” St. John Paul II in his Lenten message 2004 tells us “Let us set out with trust on our Lenten journey, sustained by



fervent prayer, penance and concern for those in need. In particular, may this Lent be a time of ever greater concern for the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole: for they are the future of humanity." St. Augustine of Hippo affirms, "Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, and kindles the true light of chastity. Enter again into yourself." Pope Benedict XVI states, "Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and, in this way, to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." Therefore, dear Sisters, let us take up this journey of realization and renewal. If the saints have walked before us, we can walk the path they have tread.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial