



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



Provincial Circular

Salesian Sisters, Auxilium Convent
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MAY 2023

Dearest and loving Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings for a very holy and fervent month of May!

The month of May - A Salesian Month

The month of May is filled with Salesian feasts and the month of Mary Help of Christians! For us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians the month of May has a special significance as it is rightly called the Salesian month because it is flavoured with Salesian holiness beginning with the feast of St. Dominic Savio, followed by the birthday and feast day of our saintly Mother Mazzarello, and culminating with the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians and the Feast of our Province.

Mother General in Circular 1026 states: "With Mary, we generate a culture of peace". The reality we are living and that worries us for the present and the future brings us back to the trust and faith of Don Bosco in Mary Help of Christians. Our Founder always turned to her in the certainty that the mother grants the necessary graces to her children and even obtains miracles.

St. Dominic Savio, a Model of youthful holiness

In his short life span, Dominic Savio made a significant impact on the world with the simplicity of his holy life. His entire sojourn on earth was marked by simplicity, humility and a constant rapport with the Lord. His saintly attitudes were seen in his ways of confronting life even at a very tender age and his ways of relating to others always inspiring them to be better. His creative initiative of forming the Immaculate Conception sodality at the very young age of 12 is a clear indication of his ardour to attract his friends and draw others towards God and His love.



Dominic had enormous willpower. Don Bosco says that he had found in him "a great human strength supported by grace." This strength of will was directed toward a great ideal: "to become a saint," a strong expression which well illustrates his attitude. In his first encounter with Don

Bosco in his room, Savio read on the wall, “Give me souls and take away the rest,” immediately the little boy exclaimed, “Here you deal with souls... I am a cloth and you be the tailor, make me into a beautiful garment for the Lord.” When St. John Bosco taught him that holiness involves being constantly joyful, he opened his heart to a contagious joy. He wanted to be close to the most abandoned and infirm of his fellow young people.

This youthful saint gives us the assurance that Jesus is a person whom we can always have a relationship with. We are made to be in a loving relationship with God and that’s what our consecrated life too invites us. Imitating this great Saint, we are reminded to be constant in our striving for a life of holiness. Dominic in his lifetime acquired tremendous wisdom that gave him the impetus to remain faithful to his goal of achieving perfection. His own words “If I do not become a Saint, I am doing nothing” was indeed his guiding principle which he accomplished with constancy and love. To us, he has given the conviction that what matters in life is the faithfulness and constancy in little things not just the big accomplishments and achievements. He is indeed a model for all time and a great witness to the faith more with his life than words. By following his example, we also can become witnesses to the faith of others.

Birthday and Feast of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello

The birthday and the feast day of St. Mary Mazzarello invite each of us to follow her life of daily holiness in expressing our love for God and one another. She also stands before us, a completely Marian soul, enveloped in the light of Our Lady from childhood to death. When Pope Pius XI was proclaiming the heroic nature of her virtues, he said: “There is something great in a life that develops and unfolds under the guidance of such a mother”. In fact, Our Lady was for her the living incarnation of the ideal of sanctity which she always kept before her eyes. She held this ideal up to the sisters and girls as well so that they could feel our Lady’s attraction, love her and strive to imitate her. The characteristic mark of St. Mary Mazzarello is her humility, profound consciousness and continual union with God, tender love for Mother Mary, simplicity of life, and hard work. She was a peasant girl, a village seamstress, but a great person endowed with remarkable virtues of genuine charity, profound faith, and unending joy”. We, her daughters are called to live like her the holiness of daily life.



Like our Saintly Mother Mazzarello, let us resolve to make the goal of our spiritual journey to be **saints** through our constant meeting God in our daily and simple circumstances of life and in every person we encounter. As we celebrate her feast, let us remind ourselves that she was not content only to bear the title ‘Daughter of Mary Help of Christians’ but she set herself the task of making Our Lady known and loved, of spreading her devotion, but above all striving to resemble her so as to be her true daughter.

Feast of Mary Help of Christians

The tradition of celebrating the Feast of Mary Help of Christians on May 24 goes back to 1571, with the great battle of Lepanto (October 7, 1571). In 1573 Pope Pius V instituted the feast in thanksgiving for the decisive victory of Christianity over Islamism. Through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, Vienna was freed from the Turks. On 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned to Rome after the captivity of Napoleon in Naples. Twelve months later, the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians, be kept on this significant day every year.



For us FMA this feast is considered to have a very special significance. On June 9, 1868, St. John Bosco dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians, his congregation in Turin (Italy). He founded the congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians as a living monument of his gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. This feast reminds us of our responsibility to prolong Don Bosco's gratitude to Mary Help of Christians all through our lives.

Mother General in her Circular letter invites us to revive the Marian face of the Institute testifying that the living monument of Mary Help of Christians is alive and dynamic. It means making ourselves available to write a piece of history every day with the young people because only with them is the song of the Magnificat complete and can shine with the typical beauty of the Salesian charism. This year, therefore, is an opportune time for us to revive in all our communities the Marian traditions of the Institute as we continue our post-Chapter journey **“With Mary, be a life-giving presence.”** For us Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, to be life-giving is a priority commitment and it is necessary to concretize it in the reality of our communities, re-awakening passion for Jesus and the educative passion, immersing ourselves in the daily routine of the young people, of the families, facing the daily challenges as opportunities for the good. Don Bosco suggests invoking her by praying the Novena as an irresistible means in the certainty that Mary intervenes efficaciously in the history of humanity redeemed by Jesus. May our life, be a life lived in Mary, with Mary and for Mary making our own the proposal of Don Bosco: “Everything with Mary, nothing without her”.

Salesian tradition offers us ample means for fostering devotion to Our Lady. The first and most important of these is to create in and around us a deeply Marian atmosphere which will reflect the Marian spirituality of our Institute so that Our Lady will shine forth in our communities as the model to which we must all conform. Let us, therefore, make use of every opportunity to make Our Lady known and loved.

Congratulations to all the sisters who pronounced their first ‘Yes’ on this great day. May you experience the tangible presence of Mary in your everyday life.

Solemnity of Pentecost

On 28 May 2023, the Church throughout the world celebrates the solemnity of Pentecost, the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary and an invitation for all of us to live a life according to the Spirit. To live a life in the Spirit is a call for us to live as

disciples of Jesus Christ, cooperating with the inspirations and promptings of the Spirit according to our vocation. It is a realization that our personality, talents and all we have in this life are gifts from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizes the following actions of the Holy Spirit: "The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus' proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Moved by grace, human being turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high. 'Justification is not only the remission of sins but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior of the person" (No. 1989). Therefore, let us prepare ourselves well for the feast of Pentecost to receive the Holy Spirit who will fill our lives with his spirit.

Let us celebrate all other feasts of this month with great fervour interceding their help for a world of peace, harmony and fraternity. **St. Louis Orione (16 May) St. Leonard Murialdo (18 May) Blessed Joseph Kowalski (29 May) Ascension of Our Lord (18 May)**

COMMUNICATIONS



We are glad to have Sr. Celine Jacob, the visiting councilor in the province from 02 - 14 May 2023. She will be making a brief visit to most of our communities and encountering the sisters at the zonal level and all our candidates and novices in formation. For further details kindly look into her itinerary sent to you already.



We are happy to extend a warm welcome back to our dear Sr. Ninet D' Costa after her seventeen long years of missionary endeavour in Africa, especially in the hard-hitting county of South Sudan. She joined the community of Auxilium, Najafgarh on 26 April 2023. We wish you God's abundant choicest blessing as you take up your new responsibility!

Congratulations! The Lord has done a great thing holy is His name! We rejoice and thank God for the blessing that we received at St. Mary's Convent School, Geyzing, the gift of permission to start ISC. It is indeed surprising that the Inspection was held on 13 April, a day dedicated to Mother Mazzarello and the news of Affiliation was given on 24 April 2023, a day dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. May the Lord bless our Educative Mission so that we can reach out to many more young people of Sikkim. We also appreciate and thank our dear Sr. Lucy Kachira and the community for having left no stone unturned to obtain this permission.

Courses & Seminars

- ❖ Sr. Emerenciana Bara and Sr. Shradha Kispotta are participating in the formators course held from 17 April - 27 May 2023 at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. Some of the topics covered in the course are Formation Ministry, Personal Plan of Formation, Formation of

Conscience, Psycho-Cultural Aspects of Formation, Psychology of Human Development, Assessment of Candidates, Eco-Spirituality, Skills in Spiritual Direction etc.

- ❖ Sr. Nirmala Tigga, Sr. Asha Kerketta and Sr. Taramani Minj will participate in the Leadership for Mission: course for superiors at Ishvani Kendra, Institute of Missiology and Communication, Pune from July 16 -29, 2023. The purpose of this course is to create prophetic, credible, and compassionate leaders, who are servants and shepherds in communities and in pastoral spaces.
- ❖ Sr. Basanti Ekka will be going for a diploma course in counselling and psychology and integral formation from June 14, 2023 to March 21, 2024 National Vocation Service Centre (NVSC) in Pune. The focus of this program is to help people to integrate their human, spiritual, theological and social facets to become a change agent bringing healing to individuals and the whole of creation.

Vestition, Profession and Renewal

- ✚ Our three postulants Dungdung Sumira, Syngkli Lily and Tirkey Abha Kishori will be making their vestition on 23 May 2023 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi.
- ✚ Our six novices Baa Rashmita, Barla Mahima, Dung Dung Anandina, Lakra Kalpna, Tigga Hemlata and Xalxo Aruni will be making their first profession on 24 May 2023 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi at 10.00 am. The Holy Eucharist will be presided over by Most Rev. Felix Toppo, the Archbishop of Ranchi.
- ✚ Our 17 junior sisters will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart novitiate-Ranchi, Auxilium Convent- Kurseong, Provincial House- Guwahati, Auxilium Convent- Chapaguri on 23 and 24 May 2023.

We thank God for the gift of our postulants, novices and sisters for their courage to say 'yes' to God's call and their determination to commit themselves with enthusiasm and joy to the service of God and others. We felicitate them and offer our prayerful support for their resolve to be a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians.



Thanks to Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and the community of Auxilium, Aspirantate and to Novice Mistress Sr. Lily D' Souza and the community of Sacred Heart, Novitiate for preparing our postulants and the novices respectively with care and concern, dedication and love. May the Lord reward you, hundredfold dear sisters!

Sincere Gratitude: Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the Renewal of the committee of the province organized a quiz for our aspirants, postulants and novices on the occasion of World Gratitude Day on 26 April 2023 to increase their knowledge about our foundress and to inculcate love for St. Mary Mazzarello.

Retreats: Let us send our prayers ahead for our retreatants.

- From 30 May – 06 June 2023, the retreat will be held at Auxilium Convent, Kurseong preceded by a two days meeting. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. James Chacko SDB and participated by 39 sisters.

- The retreat for our postulants, novices, juniors and for few sisters will be held at Sacred Heart, Novitiate, Ranchi from 16 – 23 May 2023. It will be animated by Rev. Fr. Jose Mathew SDB and attended by 28 participants.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- ✠ Sr. Philomena Chiramal at the demise of her sister-in-law Mrs. Mary Chiramal (91) on 09 April 2023
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Guwahati Province at the passing away of Fr George Chittappanatt SDB (86) on 11 April 2023.
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the departure of Bro. Joseph Neeliyara SDB on 17 April 2023 from Mamma Margaret Home, Aluva, Kerala to his heavenly home.
- ✠ Sr. Gemma Mary Prabalanathan SSA, the younger sister of late Sr. Philomina Prabalanathan is called to her eternal abode on 22 April 2023
- ✠ Sr. Rose Ezarath at the demise of her cousin brother Mr. Thomas Mathew Punnathanath (87) on 22 April 2023 due to a heart attack.
- ✠ Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel at the sudden call of her brother Mr. Paul on 25 April 2023 by the Lord to his eternal home.
- ✠ Sr. Kanta Tirkey at the passing away of her sister Ms. Sarita Tirkey (49) on 25 April 2023.
- ✠ Sr. Nirmala Lazar and the sisters of Chennai Province at the demise of Sr. Mariadoss Philomena (83) on 29 April 2023.
- ✠ Sr. Alphonsa Kurisingal and the sisters of Guwahati Province at the passing away of Sr. Elizabeth Chinir on 30 April 2023

Dear Sisters,

As we enter into the month of May, let us be aware of Mary's presence in our lives and entrust ourselves entirely to her (C 4), especially in our educative mission: "to be helpers, like her, especially among young people" (C 4). Let us revive our love for Mary Most Holy, and the various Marian moments and translate them into our life. Believing in the words of Don Bosco "It is Mary who guides us", let us entrust ourselves to the hands of Mary, the Immaculate Virgin Help of Christians so that she may help us to be generators of peace, hope and joy in our communities and wherever we are called to fulfil our mission.

Once again wish you all a very Happy Feast of St. Mary Mazzarello and Mary Help of Christians!

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

Happy Feast !

