



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

Cir/LP/30/04/2024

01 April 2024

Dear Loving Sisters,

Easter greetings from Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum!

We are in the joyous season of Easter with glory, praise and thanksgiving for the gift of salvation that we have received through Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. It is the principal festival of us, Christians. It is the climax of our celebration, followed by forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Easter celebration is proclaiming our faith and hope in the Risen Lord. The life has not ended rather it has transformed and given a new life in the Lord. A life of compassion and solidarity; a life of forgiveness and unconditional love; a life of action of saving the young and the children; a life of development of the poor and marginalized; in nut-shell, a life to live totally for others in bringing life, freedom, well-being and peace.

We celebrate and declare this good news because it is the foundation of our faith, hope and future. It gives us five important faith affirmations to strengthen our hope and deeper commitment to our mission of challenges:

1. **Jesus was Resurrected:** Christ was crucified and was buried in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea, on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. "See my hands and my feet, that it is I. His hands and feet bore the scars from crucifixion (John 20:27). Let us bear the scars of our belonging to Christ by accepting the pain and suffering without comment or regret, for a great reward that is waiting for us.
2. **The Resurrection validates Jesus' identity:** Jesus rose from the dead; He proves that He is the Son of God, Messiah, and the Saviour of the world. Jesus stated throughout His ministry that He would die and be raised to life on the third day. (Matthew 16:21). Let us prove and live our identity as religious and as true FMA in the given demanding situation.
3. **The Resurrection is Foundational to the Christian Faith:** Jesus is alive, we have the promise of living forever with the Lord and being resurrected by Him at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). We are an Easter people and we need to witness His Peace, Love and Hope in our daily life.
4. **Easter reminds us of our Salvation:** God the Father sent His Son into the world with the mission of redemption and reconciliation (John 3:16). God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith. (Rom. 3:25). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus bore the sins of all people in His body at the crucifixion (Isaiah 53:5). Let us be ready to bear the inconveniences caused by our sisters in the community

and others in our mission to bring life and joy in our community and to our mission. Let us imitate Him by our unconditional forgiveness, compassion and self-giving.

5. **Celebrating Easter serves as a testimony to the Gospel:** Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose to life. He gave us new lives and an assured hope for the future (2 Corinthians 5:17). Every day, we can cherish Jesus' resurrection, choosing to honour our Lord and Saviour in all circumstances. Our lives can serve as an ongoing testimony to the gospel. Let us take Jesus to everyone.

Dear sisters, though the Gospel readings of the season, give us, a lot of incites to live up to and witness to the Risen Lord, I would like to highlight just two incidents to guide and lead us in our daily life situations:

1. **Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." (Jn.20:15-16)

We see in Mary Magdalene a person seeking her beloved, a person filled with love and gratitude to the Master, after experiencing His redeeming love from her state of sin and falsehood. What does she tell us today, what do we search for, what are our attitudes? We have Mary, who didn't recognize Jesus as her Lord, but as a gardener. The Resurrected Lord is telling us "I am present in everyone whom we come in contact with. Today He is present in the face of our students and parents, teaching and non-teaching staff, collaborators, friends, benefactors, well-wishers and everyone in the society with whom we interact. Mary recognizes Jesus, as He called her by name; I have called you by name, you are mine (Isaiah 43:1) there is no other assurance than this, that we have been called in His name and commissioned to go and proclaim His message to everyone. This is the greatest challenge for us, just like Mary Magdalene had commissioned, go and tell the brothers and sisters that Jesus is alive.

What is my role in the community and the mission, and how responsibly do I accomplish it? What is the impact that I created in the community, in the school, in the campus and the society? Am I ready to accomplish the command of the Lord, go and tell the sisters the Lord's message of love and forgiveness?

2. **"It is the Lord"**

That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!'(Jn. 21:7)

We need to accept every person and situation as the Lord sends in our mission, in our disappointment, in our struggles, in our sorrows, in our misunderstanding, in our grief and all circumstances, persons and events so that we say like St. John 'It is the Lord'. This is the greatest challenge today for us to live.

COMMUNICATIONS

Appointments

Mother General and her council have approved the appointment of the Provincial Councillor, Novices Mistress, Province Economer and Secretary and the animators of the communities for the term 2024 – 2027 respectively.

Provincial Councillor	Sr. Ashalatta Kerketta	First Term
Province Secretary	Sr. Shanti Tirkey	First Term
Province Economer	Sr. Shanty Mathew	First Term
Novice Mistress	Sr. Lily D' Souza	Second Term

I truly appreciate and thank you dear sisters for your willingness and generosity in accepting the responsibility of animation and guidance in the province. We support you with our prayers dear sisters.

S.No	Name of the community	Name of the Animator	Term of Office
1	BAREILLY "S. Giovanni Bosco"	Sr. Kallirikumkalayil Anna (Valsa)	First
2	CALCUTTA Park Circus "Maria Ausiliatrice"	Sr. Tigga Eliswarma (Elizabeth)	First
3	JUMAIKELA "B.Laura Vicuna"	Sr. Tirkey Rosalia	First
4	KALYANI "Auxilium"	Sr. Pulickathadathil Teresa (Leela)	First
5	KURTUMGARH "S. Giovanni Bosco"	Sr. Theyattil Anna (Annie)	Third
6	NAJAFGARH "Maria Ausiliatrice"	Sr. Adampakallel Teresa	Second
7	RANCHI "S. Maria D. Mazzaerllo"	Sr. Jojo Inocencia	Second
8	RANCHI "Sacro Cuore di Gesu"	Sr. D' Souza Lily	Second

I express my thanks to you dear sisters for your willingness and generosity in accepting the responsibility of animation in the communities. We sustain you with our prayers.

I am grateful to Sr. Celina Alexander, the outgoing Provincial Councillor for rendering her service to the province for 4 years, Sr. Shanti Palamoottil, the Province Economer for 3 years and Sr. Minimol Chettayil, the Province Secretary for 12 years with generosity, commitment and dedication. May you be blessed a hundredfold by our Lord dear sisters!

I put on record, the dedicated and loving service of animation rendered by the outgoing animators Sr. Teresa Mundackal, Sr. Mercy Kachira, Sr. Emerenciana Bara, and Sr. Gracy Valliyil in the communities of Snehadhan-Bareilly, Auxilium-Park Circus, Vicuna Nivas-Jumaikela, and Auxilium-Kalyani respectively. May the Lord be your reward and joy always.

Blessings and Congratulations: Our best wishes and prayers to Sr. Rosa Pyngrope and Sr. Mabel Gothorp the Provincial elects of the provinces of Shillong (INS) and Guwahati (ING) respectively. May the Lord fill you with His spirit as He has bestowed upon you greater responsibility.

Second Novitiate: Sr. Bara Binita, Sr. Sten Ba- I- Thiang, and Sr. Xalxo Shashikanta will participate in the Second Novitiate that will be held at Sacred Heart - Novitiate, Ranchi from 14 April - 14 May 2024. It will be coordinated by Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil.

Retreat: The Second year Novices and the perpetuals will participate in a healing retreat from 15 - 19 April 2024 at the Divine Ashram Chernabera run by the Vincentians.

The Annual Retreat for the Junior sisters, Novices and Postulants will be held at Sacred Heart - Novitiate, Ranchi from 16 – 23 May 2024. It will be preached by Rev. Fr. Shilanand Kerketta SDB.

Gratitude and Appreciation: Sincere appreciation to Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the community of Auxilium Dum Dum for helping the entire province prepare well for the solemnity of St. Joseph with creativity and practical preparation.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Sherely Kalapurayil at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Thomas on 13 March 2024 due to a heart problem.
- † Rev. Sr. Elizabeth George and sisters of Shillong Province at the departure of Sr Catherine Susngi to her eternal abode on 14 March 2024 at 9.15 pm at Nazareth Hospital Shillong. Sr. Anna Ma Ma and Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel represented the province for the Eucharistic celebration and the funeral service.
- † Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Guwahati at the demise of Bro. Angelus Tete SDB on 22 March 2024. Also, to Sr. Maxima Dung Dung at the passing away of her cousin brother.
- † Rev. Sr. Meenakshi D' Silva and the sisters of Mumbai Province at the demise of Sr. Teresa Castellino on 29 March 2024.
- † Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the sisters of Bangalore Province at the departure of Sr. Helen Thonippara on 30 March 2024 to her eternal home.

Dear Sisters,

I would like to conclude my letter referring to Circular No. 1036 of our dear Mother General **"Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be"**. In this circular, she is inviting all of us to the meaning and value of meditation, not only as a religious practice but as a privileged experience of our spirituality. We are called to be exposed to the fire of the Holy Spirit that illumines, purifies, and changes the heart to enter within ourselves and make room for God. Mother continues to tell us to grow as apostles and disciples of Jesus through personal and community meditation and prayer. Let us heed her invitation to be consecrated women to be effective in the educational mission. Let us be faithful to meditation, spiritual reading, the daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament, confession, the rosary of the Holy Virgin, and the little abstinence on Friday. "Here I am, at the door and knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to Me, I will come to them; I will dine with them, and they with me" (Rev 3:20). Where your treasure is, there also is your heart. So let us reserve the best time of our day for God and return to God with all our heart, and let Him be the only Lord of our lives.

I wish you all a blessed Eastertide filled with Hope, Joy and Peace of the Risen Lord and the Feast of Divine Mercy!

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

