

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum
Kolkata 700 028



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Dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Provincial house, Dum Dum !

Foundation Day

5th August is a date of grace and a strong event of communion and gratitude. As a Family that belongs totally to Mary, we prolong in the Church the love of Don Bosco and of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello for the young, the little ones, and the poor. It is a day of remembrance and a day of the future as 5th August 1872 was at Mornese; a day of gratitude and fidelity. Certain of being guided by God's fidelity, we open our gaze to hope and revive the gift of our Salesian vocation. 5th August is an opportunity to return to the evangelical and charismatic sources, to the motivations that give meaning to our life. It is an event of grace in which we can rediscover with greater depth the roots of our call. This solemn feast is lived by remembering the history that God has woven with each of us, making us aware that we are called to narrate it and accomplish it, day after day, in the certainty that each one is responsible so that history may be more original and rich in newness. It is a history to live as protagonists, with and for the young. The renewal of the Covenant of love with God is an ulterior sign that our life is an uninterrupted hymn of praise to the Father's mercy, marked by the effort to live the beatitudes as we say in the formula of the vows: "In response to Your love, I commit myself to live the Beatitudes of the Kingdom radically in communion with my sisters proclaiming Christ to the young" (C.10). We know that God has first loved us, but we will be truly blessed only if we enter into the divine logic of gift in the beatitude of those who receive and witness to the Father's mercy, the throbbing heart of the Gospel" (Cir. 962). Let us look ahead with faith and hope and continue to realize the dream of Don Bosco on our Institute: to be the living monument of his gratitude to the Help of Christians and to extend his thanks throughout all time (C. 4).

Feast of the Assumption & Independence

The celebration of the Glorious Assumption of Our Blessed Mother, body and soul into heaven is the realization of the Easter Mystery in the life of the Immaculate Virgin Mary;

it makes sense of the invocation to Mary 'Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia' used throughout the Easter season. The mystery of Mary's assumption after death arouses the hope for the glorification of all the faithful in a similar manner at the end of times. The feast of the Assumption and the meditation over the mystery are some of the finest Christian proclamations of faith in the 'Resurrection of the Dead and Life Everlasting' in liturgy and life.

The fact that our country gained Independence in 1947 on 15th August, the traditional day of the celebration of the solemnity of the Assumption was no accident but a clear gift from God, of Mary as the special patroness of India. The observance with tri-colour flags, flowers, speeches and other programmes, in the different corners of the country and wherever freedom-loving Indians live, year after year on this day for seventy years, speaks of the undying hopes for an ever better tomorrow and a more beautiful nation in the hearts of all citizens of India.

Let us invoke God's blessings and mercy on the leaders of the our country that they may become aware of the social evils that prevail in our country may work for the elimination of these evils and make India spiritually deep, socially harmonious, culturally rich in peace, joy and fraternity. Let the prayer of the great poet Tagore 'Into that heaven of freedom my father let my country awake' be our prayer too. For us as Educators of the young of our country, the coincidence of the spiritual feast and the cultural festival is an apt reminder of the educative goal left to us by Don Bosco of forming 'Good Christians and Honest Citizens' of ourselves and of our youth so as to build a better India for our young generation.

Feast of Blessed Maria Troncati – 25 August

"Prepare yourselves to suffer in going to the missions. But you must suffer with humility, keeping your head above your heart and your heart above your head: a great heart, the heart of a mother, upright, and a good heart. A heart that is more good than just." (Informatio, 69) This is what Sr. Maria wrote in her notebook. May the witness of love and donation of Sr. Maria Troncatti be an incentive to renew the commitment to have a heart that is great and missionary, wherever we find ourselves.

What sustained this woman of faith? Sr. Maria rose at 4:00 a.m. and made a private hour of meditation. She remarked, "A look at the crucifix gives me life and the courage to work." Mary Help of Christians was her other source of strength and courage to meet the day. When one of the sisters began to reminisce about all the "sufferings, sorrows, pains, and heartbreak" of the mission, Sr. Maria responded that there was no need for any of these to be made known. For her it was enough that her Spouse, Jesus, knew it all." While we celebrate her feast let resolve to direct our lives with strong faith imbibed from the crucified Lord.

Canonisation of Mother Teresa

“She stirred a generation by touching the untouchables.” Mother Teresa belongs to the whole world- irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Indeed, she is the first religious figure in history to be revered during her lifetime by adherents of all religions and Christians of all denominations. And when she died in 1997, there was a universal outpouring of heartfelt appreciation and reverence for her long life of service. Humility, simplicity, and sacrifice are the terms most often associated with Mother Teresa and her work, though many who encountered her personally would quickly add tenacity. And this tenacity was often accompanied by a stern, uncompromising demeanor. She was driven by an unswerving conviction that she was called by God to reach out to the poorest of the poor, and this conviction left little room to entertain the objections of government officials, church authorities, or even military leaders. One of the volunteers states “Mother Teresa is my hero because she represented all that is good and holy in a world filled with pain and suffering. She replaced violence and disregard for human life with patience, kindness and stewardship. She was more than just a woman of great virtue and vision. She is truly a modern day saint whose holiness touched an entire world”,

As we await the great day of her Canonization let us rejoice with the Church and with Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity and become more acquainted with her holiness by participating in the many activities that is carried out in the diocese. I invite all our institutions to keep the celebration alive through various activities which will instill in our youngsters love and compassion towards the poor and needy considering everyone as child of God.

Communications:

Sincere gratitude to:

- Sr. Rosalia Tirkey who animated the Spiritual Retreat for the Aspirants from 21 - 24 July 2016.
- To Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel, the Provincial Economer for conducting three day animation programme for all the local Economers of the Province.
- Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the Formation coordinator of the Province for organizing the four day animation programme for the juniors. It was enriching for the sisters. I express my thanks to Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel for the one and a half day session on catechesis and Fr. Biji Thomas SDB for one day animation on prayer experience.

- To the community of Auxilium, Dum Dum for hosting both the Economers and Juniors Meet and for rendering warm welcome and hospitality to all the participants.
- Sr. Francesca Ekka and the community of Auxilium - Gobra for the 5th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ Sr. Rose Kureekattu at the loss her niece Mrs. Biji on 14th July 2016
- ✠ Sr. Alma Bilung at the demise of her maternal aunt Mrs. Juliana Tete on 28th July 2016
- ✠ Sr. Teresa Korattiparambil at the passing away of her nephew Mr. Thomas on 30 July 2016
- ✠ Sr. Alma Tirkey at the demise her mother Mrs. Agustina on 30 July 2016
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Mathew and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the demise of Fr. Joffie Puthuva in a tragic accident on 3rd August 2016.

❖ Prayers Requested:

- For the brother (26) of Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis, who is undergoing treatment for kidney problem
- For all our sick and elderly sisters, ailing parents and relatives of our sisters.

Before I conclude, I wish you all a very Happy Feast of the Assumption our Blessed Mother. The doctrine of the Assumption is a source of great hope for us that one day we shall also rise with our bodies and be there where our heavenly mother is. The present life is for eternity and our happiness is proportionate to our goodness on earth. Let us live a life free from all stain of sin in order that we too may raise up to heaven like Mary.

Happy Feast of Assumption and a Happy Independence day to each one of you.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
Provincial

