

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



Cir/RE/07/01/2016

09 January 2016

Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Mother General and the Sisters of General Council!

I had the joy of being personally present for the presentation of the Strenna 2016 by Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime at the Generalate. The theme of the **Strenna is: “With Jesus Let Us Adventure in the Spirit Together”**. It is an invitation for all of us to delve deep into ourselves and to take an adventurous and a courageous journey of our life in the company of Jesus, led by the Spirit. If the journey is led by the Spirit we can be certain that our journey is safe and will lead to the effectiveness of the mission entrusted to us. Let us take the Strenna as a ‘navigation map’ for the year. I invite all of you to read and study the Strenna and share it with all the educating community members and the recipients of our mission.

Mother General in her Circular letter 957 says, “The Strenna is a call, a reminder of the essential in the awareness that only with Jesus, in Jesus, and beginning with Him, can we make a truly meaningful and decisive journey for our life and for the fruitfulness of the mission entrusted to us. Following Jesus is “an adventure” lived in the Holy Spirit, which fascinates, attracts, and surprises. The decision to follow Jesus radically demands audacity, the one that conquers every fear, and eases difficulties inherent in the following itself like exclusion, misunderstanding, rejection. The adventure of the Spirit is our very relationships; it is our daily mission in the midst of the young”.

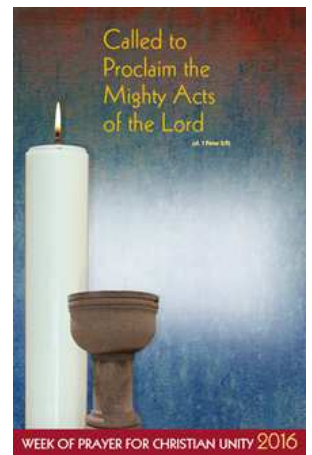
Year of Mercy

As we have initiated our journey of Mercy let us speak the language of mercy and forgiveness. The Year of Mercy is to be walked more than to be talked. Let us be doers of Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy to bring a ray of hope in others and to burn a candle to give light and life to others. I would like to share with you a beautiful quote which I read recently. It is said; “The food that I share with others, is the food that nourishes me. The strength that I spent for others is the strength that I retain. The freedom I seek for others makes me forever free. The pain that I ease for others, shall take away my pain. The load that I lift from others makes my load disappear. The good that I see in others, my greatest good shall be. The love that I

feel for others comes back to cheer my life. The path I walk with others is the path God walks with me.”

Unity Octave (January 18–25)

The 2016 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is “**Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord**” (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). As Christians seeking the unity of the Body of Christ we are all called to recognize the mighty acts of God in our own lives and the life of the Church. Together with the entire Christendom let us pray that the prayer of Jesus “That all may be one...” Jn 17: 21 may become a reality in the world. Let us begin this journey in our communities to be agents and promoters of unity and harmony.



Communications:

➤ Mother General and her Council have approved the appointment of Sr. Rosalia Tirkey as the Provincial Councillor for the first Term. We congratulate her for her generous “Yes” to collaborate in the animation of the Province.

We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Sr. Teresa Sagaymary Ruben, the outgoing Provincial Councillor for her contribution to the growth of the Province. May God bless you copiously dear Sr. Ruben !

➤ New Provincials course will commence on 15 January and will conclude on 27 January. It will be held in Generalate at Rome. We are 20 Provincials in all, from different parts of the world. Sr. Rita Dora and I will leave for India on 28 January. I request you all to support us with your fervent prayers for the success and fruitfulness of the course.

➤ We were happy to have the presence of Sr. Ninet D’Costa, missionary in South Sudan, Africa in the Provincial House, Dum Dum for a week in the month of December. The sharing of her tough missionary life and experience increased in us our love for mission.

Sincere gratitude to:

➤ Sr. Crescentia D’Almeida and the Sisters of the Provincial house of the Bangluru Province who have accompanied and animated our 12 junior sisters during the First Phase of their Second Novitiate. Thank you dear Sisters for enriching our young sisters with a well chalked out programme.

➤ Gratitude to Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil and the community of Auxilium Bandel for hosting Education Policy Seminar, Child Protection Policy seminar and the

Annual Spiritual Retreat for 51 sisters of the Province. May God reward you sisters for your generous service and warm hospitality rendered to the retreatants to have a fruitful encounter with the Lord.

Thanks to Sr. Stella Potteparambil and Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, the animators of the seminar. May God bless you abundantly, your enthusiasm and generosity for the mission.

Sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Varghese Chittilappilly SDB of Dimapur Province for his availability and helping the sisters to become Christ and Word oriented persons. He dwelt on the various topics such as mystic, prophetic and the fundamental elements of community living, living one's vocation to the full joyfully, passion for Christ and passion for humanity etc.

I am grateful to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, Vice Provincial for filling the gap of my absence with her sisterly presence and generous availability.

- ➡ Sr. Rosina Thekumkattil and the sisters of Auxilium Kalyani for preparing the Christmas Novena so as to help the sisters of the Province to prepare themselves to welcome Jesus the Light and Life of humanity, whom God sacrificed so that we may find life in Him.
- ➡ Thanks to all of you who have shared the joy of Christmas by sending Christmas wishes and greetings via Christmas card and email.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ✠ Rt. Rev. Paul Simmick, priests and the faithful of Nepal at the demise of Bishop Emeritus Anthony Sharma on 09 December 2015.
- ✠ Sr. Annie Theyattil at the passing away of her aunt Ms. Teresa on 19 December 2015.
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Raphael Jayapalan and the Confreres of Chennai Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. John Peter Sathiaraj, SDB on 02 January 2016
- ✠ Sr. Susanna Korah at the demise of her grand niece Mrs. Jisha (37 years) on 4 January 2016.
- ✠ Sr. Anand Tirkey at the loss of her dear mother Mrs. Felicita Tirkey on 5 January 2016.
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Nirmol Gomes and the Confreres of Kolkata Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Joseph Punchekunnel SDB on 09 January 2016.

Prayers Requested:

- For the father of Sr. Restitula Kharpran who is sick.
- For the sick and elderly sisters of our Province

We are in the month of January dedicated to a number of Salesian Saints namely **Blessed Louis Variara SDB on 15th**; **Blessed Laura Vicuña on 22nd** ; **St Francis de Sales on 24th** and **Blessed Bronislaws MarkiewiczSDB on 30th**; and **St. John Bosco on 31st**. May they shower on us their blessings from above to live authentically and enthusiastically our Consecrated life so that one day we too may be counted among them. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”. (Rom. 12.2) Finally before I conclude I want to wish you all a very joyous and grace filled New Year. May each day of the New Year bring you pleasant surprises and new opportunities. As the world grows another year older I wish you to have a heart that remains youthful and cheerful filled with Merciful Love of the Father.

I am happy to let you know that I had the joy and privilege of entering through the Holy Door (PORTA SANTA) of St. Peter’s Basilica. As I entered through the Holy Door I carried all of you in my heart and prayed to the God of Mercy for His Mercy and Forgiveness on all of us so that we in our turn become like Him Merciful towards others in our communities and our mission field.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)

