

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
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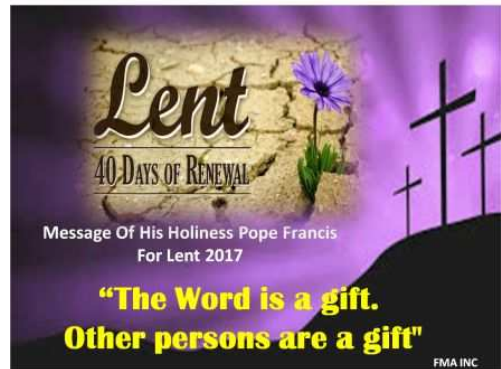
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March 2017

Greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum!

Dear Sisters,

Once again we have entered into the holiest season of the liturgical year and a season of amazing grace. Lent is a time for giving up something or an occasion for beginning something new. "The purpose of Lent, Pope Francis says, is to 'awaken' and 'rouse us from torpor.' Lent invites us to meditate on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, to repent of our sins, calls us to introspect, to live a life of austerity, to have a change of heart and mind and to experience God's grace. It is a moment drawing us back to God's merciful embrace, to quieten our minds and our hearts and to center ourselves through prayer. Pope Francis says that Lent should shake us from our spiritual lethargy. Lent is a time of prayer, reflection, and unity with God. We are invited to give up all that is extra in our life so that we can truly possess God, know and rely on what, and who, is most essential: our relationship with God. During these days, God reminds us in a special way that his promise of grace is bigger and stronger than our sins. Let us therefore be part of this great period of mercy, participate and be part of the blessings.



Lent shows us our weakness and helps us to recognize how helpless we are, makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love. It is also an invitation to have a heart for those who are hungry, suffering, to reach out to others and help them to experience of God's unconditional love.

"The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift" is the Pope Francis Lenten message for 2017. He presents before us the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). He invites us to find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion. Let us re-read the message of Holy Father to draw inspiration to make a fruitful Lenten journey.

Let us take this journey with Christ who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the cross for all of us. Let us take this journey joyfully through the desert to the foot of the cross, to seek him out, to ask his help and to share in his suffering and learn to love like him.

Month of St. Joseph

We have entered into the month of St. Joseph, patron of the universal church and of our Institute. He was the protector of Our Lady's good name and in that capacity, the confident of Heaven's secrets, the foster - father of Jesus, charged with the guidance and support of the Holy Family and responsible for the education of Jesus, who though divine, loved to call Himself "the son of man". St. Joseph was present all the various important moments of Jesus and Mary. He was present when our Lord was laid in the manger and the shepherds came to worship Him, that he was present when the infant was placed in the arms of Holy Simeon, shared the sorrow of his wife at the loss of Jesus and joy in finding him amidst the doctors in the temple. St Joseph's merit is summed up in the phrase that "he was a just man". St. Joseph is that marvelous being whom God, in His infinite wisdom and boundless mercy, chose from the millions of humans, to be the chaste spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and the protective father, here on earth of Jesus. God chose St. Joseph to provide not only for the material and protective welfare of Mary and Jesus, but also he is a powerful intercessor in heaven for us. Let us turn to him in confidence and trust.



Communications:

Triennial Evaluation

The Circular letter of Mother General and the Sisters of the General Council (Cir. 967) entitled: "Verification: Experience of encounter that transforms" is an invitation for all of us to prepare for the Triennial Verification which will be held from 24 - 28 January 2018. It is an opportunity that the Institute offers us to revive the consciousness of our charismatic identity, to reread the life in the light of the Word of God and of the challenges of today and to project towards the future with hope. The verification is for all of us a significant experience to see the impact of the great assignment "Broaden Your Vision! With the young, Missionaries of Hope and Joy" We are asked to verify the three choices of pastoral conversion namely, *Transformation through encounter; Together with the young; Missionaries of hope and joy* (Cf. Acts GC XXIII, nos. 54-66) beginning with our own experience lived at the personal, community, and province level.

I exhort all of you to read the Circular 967 and the Guidelines for the preparatory phase and the realization of Triennial Evaluation 2018 which is sent to you from the provincial office to prepare ourselves to verify the authenticity of our life lived in the local communities where charism develops, enters into history, and leavens life and daily actions. (Cf. Acts GC XXIII, p.7)

World Gratitude Day

The Feast of World Gratitude Day will be celebrated this year in the Province of Mother of God, Cotonou (Benin), - AFO - West Africa, on 26th April 2017. The theme is ***“With an oratorian heart, in the Educating Community, we bring the joy of the Gospel to the young people with audacity”***. Together with the entire Institute let us prepare ourselves to celebrate this feast of communion sending ahead prayers for our beloved Mother Yvonne Reungoat. We shall wait for the detailed information from the website of our institute (<http://www.cgfmanet.org>).



Congratulations to:

Together with Sr. Magnificat Soosai and the sisters of Chennai Province we rejoice and thank God for the gift of a new Province with its patroness 'Our Lady of Snow' : FMA-INT Tiruchirapalli with its headquarters at Manikandam. We offer our gifts of prayers and extend our hearty congratulations to dear Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, Provincial Elect of Chennai Province and Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the first Provincial Elect of Tiruchirapalli. May our Blessed Mother, the inspirer and guide of our Institute continue to guide, inspire and watch over them under her maternal mantle. In the presence of our Mother General Sr. Yvonne Reungoat the new Province of Tiruchirapalli will be inaugurated and canonically erected on 10th June 2017.

Sincere gratitude to:

- ✚ Sr. Rosina Thomas and the community of “Auxilium” Kalyani for the 12th set of questionnaire on GC XXIII for the Recollection day.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- † Sr. Elizabeth Joseph at the demise of her nephew in an accident on 12th February 2017.



Prayers requested for:

The animators of our communities who will be making their Annual Retreat at Auxilium Kurseong from 08 – 15 March 2017. It will be preached by Fr. C.T. Varghese SDB. Followed by a day of meeting and seminar from 17 – 19 March 2017 animated by Fr. Johny Nedungatt SDB.

Dear Sisters, I would like to conclude my letter by quoting once again the concluding part of the Lenten message of Pope Francis. “Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and

in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter."

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)