

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
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Dearest Sisters,

Affectionate Greetings from Auxilium Provincial House ,Dum Dum !

The Month of the Holy Rosary

The Rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. While we pray the Rosary we are invited to meditate on the saving mysteries of our Lord's life and the faithful witness of our Blessed Mother. Journeying through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious mysteries of the rosary, the individual brings to mind our Lord's incarnation, His passion and death and His resurrection from the dead. In so doing, the rosary assists us in growing in a deeper appreciation of these mysteries, in uniting our life more closely to our Lord and in imploring His graced assistance to live the faith. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description".

The month of the Holy Rosary is a perfect time to remind ourselves of her 15 in-and-out-of-this-world promises she made to those who pray the Rosary faithfully. When she makes a promise, it is absolutely 100% true and worthy of belief. I would like to bring to your attention the *Fifteen Promises of Our Lady to those who faithfully pray the Rosary*:

1. Whosoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces. 2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary. 3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies 4. It will cause good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for Eternal things. Oh, those souls would sanctify themselves by this means. 5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish. 6. Whosoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its Sacred Mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the

grace of God, and become worthy of Eternal Life. 7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church. 8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the Light of God and the plenitude of His Graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the Merits of the Saints in Paradise. 9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary. 10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of Glory in Heaven. 11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by recitation of the Rosary. 12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities. 13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire Celestial Court during their life and at the hour of death. 14. All who recite the Rosary are my Sons, and brothers of my Only Son Jesus Christ. 15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

The Rosary basically was given to St. Dominic to overcome heresy and to promote virtue. Today too we need to overcome many heresies and challenges that we face in the church and in our everyday life. Therefore I would encourage all our communities to be faithful to this great devotion and cultivate the same in our young people and through them reach out to their families.

Feast of St. Teresa of Ávila

Saint Teresa of Ávila (28 March 1515 – 4 October 1582), was a prominent Spanish mystic, Carmelite nun, a great saint and doctor of the Church and an author during the Counter Reformation, and theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer. St. Teresa's great work of reform began with herself. She made a vow always to follow the more perfect course, and resolved to keep the rule as perfectly as she could. Teresa's efforts to reform the convents were oftentimes misunderstood, misjudged and opposed. Yet she struggled on, courageous and faithful; she struggled with her own mediocrity, her illness, her opposition. And in the midst of all this she clung to God in life and in prayer. Toward the end of her life she exclaimed: "Oh, my Lord! How true it is that whoever works for you is paid in troubles! And what a precious price to those who love you if we understand its value!" As we honour St. Teresa, patroness of our Institute let us follow her example of contemplation and action and together with her we may be able to say "Nothing is wanting to the one who possesses God. God alone suffices."

Feast of Blessed Michael Rua

Bl. Michael Rua was born in Turin on June 9, 1873, the youngest of the nine children. He came to the oratory of Don Bosco in 1852. Don Rua was the most faithful, and therefore the most humble and the most valiant of the sons of Don Bosco. He was a constant companion of Bosco on his journeys, and became the Vicar of the Society in 1865. Pope Leo XIII designated him to be Bosco's first successor and confirmed him as Rector Major in 1888. He was true son, disciple, and imitator of Don Bosco. Don Rua was also known for his fatherly approach and thoughtfulness. As the members and communities increased he sent Salesians all over the world, showing special care for the missionary expeditions. He carried out the vision and mission of Don Bosco with a

spirit of faithfulness and availability. Like Don Bosco he had the same gentleness, the same humility, same simplicity, the same greatness of soul and same spirit of joy. The greatness of Don Rua can be attributed to his sanctity, his contribution to the growth of Congregation and above all to his having assimilated, institutionalized and globalised as it were the spirit of Don Bosco. His heroic example is a perfect testimony to the Salesian holiness.

Communications

Provincial Community Day

After a month of preparation we celebrated the Provincial community day a feast of love, gratitude and unity on 12 October expressing it concretely in word and gesture. The time of preparation enabled us to deepen our mission and life together. The theme chosen for the celebration for the Provincial Community Day “The Beatitudes, the road to holiness”, based on the Encyclical of Pope Francis ‘Gaudete et Exsultate’ (Rejoice and be Glad) was apt and appropriate one for us to take up our journey towards holiness of life. The innovative presentation of the Beatitudes was a clearer indication to perceive how the communities lived intensely the period of preparation for the Provincial community day. The meaningful and solemn Eucharistic celebration was the source and summit of our celebration where we were united once again to celebrate in the name of our Lord.

I would like to put forward to you dear sisters my sincere words of gratitude and appreciation for the glorious celebration of Provincial Community Day. A special thanks to Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, vice provincial, general coordinator Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil and the Team members for planning and executing the same and to all the communities for living out the days of preparation with enthusiasm and zeal; for the liturgical animation, the beautiful evening gathering, the meaningful Eucharistic celebration and the shared fellowship meal. May the Lord continue bless us to live our call to be holy. The call to holiness is deeply personal, it is not individual. We are called to be together. This is the central thrust of salvation history; God enters into relationship with the people. Pope Francis reminds us “we are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in a human community. Growth in holiness is a journey in a community, side by side with others.” Let us take this journey as a community to reach our heavenly home.

Seminar

From 13 - 15 October 2018, a seminar for the Animators and Principals of the Province was held at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum. The resource person for the same was Dr. Fr. Michael Fernandes SDB an expertise in Canon Law and animation programme. 37 sisters, (Animators and Principals) participated and profited from this enriching seminar. Fr. Michael dwelt on the topics: Leadership in Religious Communities, Community Life, Ten top Qualities of Leaders, Listening Skills of a

leader, Confrontation, Managing your time, Animation and Administration, Causes of Tensions in Communities, Financial Management, and Dealing with Difficult Members, Motivation and Spiritual Direction. He helped the participants to introspect the style of leadership that are followed in the communities and in the school leadership. The participants left the venue with the determination to build our communities a God oriented one, to create a loving and caring community by giving positive stoke and to manage the time efficiently for better proficiency. A sincere word of appreciation and thanks to Fr. Michael for this enriching workshop so efficiently conducted.

Synod

I am sure all of you are following the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment” that is taking place in Rome. We are grateful to Sr. Alice Chacko of Bangalore Province for facilitating us with NEWSFLASH series.

In line with the Synod on: ‘*Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*’ (cf. Working Document Nos. 213-214), an International Commission of our sisters was formed to provide us with a monthly reflection on the journey of accompaniment in the youth of our Saints, Blesseds, Venerables, and Servants of God in our Institute. This commission is coordinated by the General Councilor for the Youth Pastoral Sector, Sr. Runita Borja, Vice-Postulator Sr. Sylwia Ciezkowska and Secretary General, Sr. Piera Cavaglià. The character of these reflections is informative, so as to be able to share also with the young, the lay people of the educating communities, and with the groups of the Salesian Family. This initiative is shared on the 3rd of every month. Let us make use all these valuable helps to nourish ourselves for a better educative mission.

Meetings

- A Seminar on Initial Proclamation will be held on 7-8 November 2018 at Bandel Basilica. The presentations during the Seminar will focus on the document, *Initial Proclamation Today*, the fruit of the joint effort of the FMA-SDB Missions Sectors. Srs. Teresa Adampakallel, Elizabeth Valliyil, Nirmala Tigga and Julita Kujur will participate in it.
- The Regional CRI meet will be held at Seva Kendra, Kolkata from 5 -7 November 2018 with the theme ‘God experience going beyond our structures focusing on the youth.’ Sr. Stella Potteparambil in the capacity of CRI Regional secretary and I will take part in it.
- The PCI level meeting of the Salesian Family which was to be held from the 18th - 22nd October 2018 at Kodambakkam, Chennai is being cancelled due to unavoidable circumstance. Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, General Councilor for Salesian
- Family has written a letter expressing her gratitude and affection. (*Please see the attach*)



Sincere Gratitude to:

- ❖ Sr. Shanti Tirkey, the vocation coordinator of the Province for organizing 'come and see programme' at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi from 27-30 September and at Auxilium Convent, New Chumta from 5-7 October 2018. In the former camp 41 young girls from Jumaikela and Ranchi participated in it and in the latter as well 41 participated from New Chumta, Mirik and Jaigaon. Sincere words appreciation and gratitude to the communities of Ranchi - Mazzarello, Novitiate and Auxilium New Chumta for the collaboration and cooperation.
- ❖ Sr. Teresa Adampakallel and the community of Provincial House for holding a number of programmes in the month of October - Provincial Community day, Golden Jubilee celebration and the meeting of the Animators and Principals. May the Lord bless and reward you abundantly for your magnanimous ways.
- ❖ Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and Sr. Mukta Kerketta for translating the profile of our departed sisters from Italian to English from 2014 onwards. We are grateful to Sr. Celine Jacob, provincial of Bangalore and to Sr. Marietta Kaidathara for taking up this responsibility with generosity.

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- ✠ Sr. Gracy Mathai Niravathu (53) from the Sacred Heart Province of Bangalore at the sudden demise on 22 September 2018.
- ✠ Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara's father Mr. Finiyan who returned to his Heavenly home on 25 September 2018.
- ✠ Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil's cousin Mr. Wilson Anthony (50) who passed away on 25 September 2018 due to stroke.
- ✠ Sr. Gracy Parekattil's father Mr. Anthony (86) who went to his heavenly abode on 01 October 2018.
- ✠ Fr. Varappilly Joseph SDB (73) from the Salesian Province of New Delhi who breathed his last on 01 October 2018

Prayers requested for:

- 🙏 For sick sisters especially for Sr. Cecilia Tamba who is undergoing chemotherapy

Dear Sisters,

As we are in the month of the Holy Rosary, let us pray the Holy Rosary with devotion and love. "The Rosary is a spiritual medicine. It is a school of prayer and a school of faith" Pope Francis. Therefore let us cling on to it.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)

