



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/37/12/2024

05 December 2024

Dear Loving Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings from the Provincial House, Dum Dum !

“The end of the year is always a time to reflect and recharge our energies.” The month of December is a time for gratitude, contemplation, and celebration – a time to give thanks for all that has been accomplished and to prepare our hearts for the sacred season of Christmas.

This month is a precious opportunity for each of us to renew our faith and deepen our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us remember that the spirit of Christmas is one of love, humility, and service. It is in giving and in serving others that we truly express the message of Christ’s coming into the world.

Let us also remember to pray for those in need and for all those who are suffering, bringing them into our hearts as we celebrate the great gift of Christ’s birth.

Season of Advent

Advent is a time of anticipation and reflection, marking the journey toward the celebration of Jesus’ birth. Each week, we light a candle symbolizing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

ADVENT



Preparing Our Hearts

with the candle of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

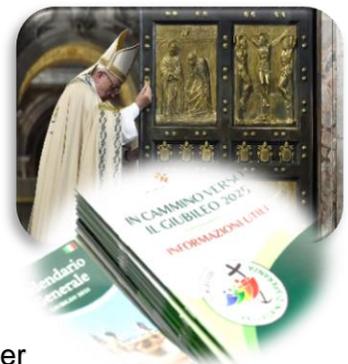
In the Bible, hope is looking forward to a certainty. This is a time of hope, expecting and knowing that Jesus is coming to put everything right. Hope will illumine us to see what really matters in our lives and he has already laid the foundation for things to be right in our lives. Advent is an opportunity to look in more depth into oneself what I want to explore today.

God chose to introduce his Messiah to the world through a virgin birth, in a way that brought embarrassment to this engaged couple, because his ways are not our ways. In bringing Jesus into the world broke all kinds of unrighteousness and so that they would trust only God. Just like when Jesus grew up, the people that he healed were the people that wouldn’t be allowed into the temple, because he was breaking that system and showing that his mercy was to all! That’s how God worked. Today we are called to face such challenges in our lives are we ready to follow this young couple from Nazareth?

Emmanuel means God with us. I am with you all the days. He is Emmanuel at birth, he is Emmanuel when we gather together and he is Emmanuel as we go in our mission. He is with us! He carried our shame in the most shameful way possible. In Roman culture, the cross was used for slaves and outcasts and in Jewish culture, cursed is everybody who hangs on a tree. On the cross, Jesus took our shame, just like Joseph took our shame when Jesus was born. Jesus has taken the shame for us and now we are honoured! We are part of the family, the people of God. God will save his people from sin. We are saved as individuals, but honoured by being part of the people of God, the brothers and sisters of Christ. Our Emmanuel invites us to renew and be ready to commit ourselves totally in His mission without any if's and but's a total surrender to all circumstances and situations. Yes, dear sisters we meet our Emmanuel in our daily life, that's Christmas.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis says that The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin with opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024 by Pope Francis. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year. Jubilee year is the time for pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive the faith.



St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier inspires us to keep our feet moving. He was a man on fire with God's love! He was aware of his fears and frailties but dared to take on new challenges and dream new dreams.

Inner transformation and mission

“What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?” This captivating sentence stirred within him and discerned to be Christ's disciple in the service of God and humankind. Xavier inspires us to keep our feet moving. He was a man on fire with God's love! He was aware of his fears and frailties, but dared to take on new challenges and dream new dreams. He was a mission-focused man and did not waste time. Soon after he arrived in Goa, he made himself available by visiting the sick, serving lepers, preaching to the Portuguese and exploring new options for mission.



Xavier's life inspires us to move from mediocrity to joyful generosity for God's greater glory. Those who knew him wrote that “he walked with joy” and he moved around “with laughter in his mouth.” From the spiritual Exercised that he did under the guidance of his friend, Ignatius, he was driven to do “more” and “greater” things for God.

Blessed Philip Rinaldi



Blessed Philip Rinaldi, a prominent figure in the Salesians of Don Bosco, was known for his deep spirituality, commitment to the education and formation of young people, and his leadership within the Salesian community. He served as the third successor of St. John Bosco as the Rector Major of the Salesians, and his advice and teachings continue to inspire many.

"Have faith in the Eucharist, in the Sacraments, and in the maternal protection of Mary. These will be the sources of strength in your life."

"Be joyful, because joy is the mark of a Christian life. If we live joyfully, we will attract others to the Gospel."

"Education is not just about learning, but about shaping character. Do not forget the heart of the student—teach them with love and attention to their dignity."

"Use reason, religion, and loving kindness. If we want to guide the young, we must first win their trust and respect through love and understanding."

"Be passionate in your mission to bring Christ to young people, especially those who are far from the Church. The mission is an essential part of being a true Salesian."

"When we help those in need, we see the face of Christ. Show compassion to the sick and suffering, for they are closest to the heart of Jesus."

"Do not neglect your prayer life. Make time for daily prayer, for it is through prayer that we stay close to God and receive His strength."

"Live simply and humbly. The true greatness is not in the things we acquire or in the honors we receive, but in the love we show to others."

Immaculate Conception



The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** honors the unique grace bestowed upon Mary by God, preserving her from original sin from the moment of her conception. It highlights her central role in God's plan of salvation, her perfect response to His will, and her purity as the Mother of Jesus Christ.

Let us remind ourselves the teaching of the dogma on the Immaculate Conception and renew our love and devotion towards Blessed Virgin Mary: Mary teaches us 3 Life Lessons to live by: **Believe, Treasure, Let Go**. Let these three words be our guiding light as we march ahead in our day to day life towards the path of holiness. Mary was favoured by God for the important task of giving birth to Jesus, and accompanies Him by caring, loving, and nurturing. Mary with her husband,

Joseph, allowed Jesus to increase in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and other people. The Virgin Mary teaches us what it means to live in the Holy Spirit and what it means to accept the news of God in our lives. She conceived Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit, and every Christian, especially each one of us, is called to accept the Word of God, to accept Jesus inside of us, and then to bring him to everyone. God blessed her tremendously with the birth of Jesus through extraordinary circumstances. Despite her fears and anxieties, she decided to trust God's word, praise God through suffering, trust God in the unknown, and surrender to God's will. His plans for our lives will take us down windy and uncertain roads let us accept it like Mary our Mother.

Let us learn to believe in the impossible, to trust in god's plan, and to surrender to Him. one self and in others, for every creature is the sign of God's love on earth.

Mary shows us the importance of treasuring memories, reflecting on our experiences and pondering the mysteries of God's love manifested in our daily life.

Mary teaches us to let go of our attachments, our fears, and our need for control. She shows us that true love requires surrender, trust, and faith in God's plan.

Communications

Meetings and Seminars

- ❖ Annual NDF meet at Auxilium Parish from 8-10 December and on the 8th, inauguration of the new PCI Office at Auxilium Convent, Gobra.
- ❖ Sr. Mary Puthuppallil will be participating in the Semina organized by Asian Movement of Women Religious against Human Trafficking (AMRAT) on the topic "Unleash Your Leadership Potential" "Free of cost, No Change, No payment or No expense" from 7- 9 December, 2024 at Social Forum Kharghuli, Guwahati.
- ❖ Sr. Bridgit Chettri and Sr. Marth Minj will attend the Basic Counselling Course, held at Apostolic Carmel Divya Darshan Gidha, Nilganj Bazar, W.B from 09 – 13 December 2024.

Gratitude and Appreciation

-  To Sr. Teresa Karakkal and community for helping the postulants in their community and mission experience.
-  To Sr. Lily Perumpettikkunel, Sr. Rose Ezarath, Sr. Teresa Karakkal and Sr. Mary Ekka for helping our novices Lily Syngkli, Abha Kishori Tirkey and Sumira Dung Dung to have their successful mission experience.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Alma Bilung at passing away of her cousin brother Mr. Ajay Kerketta 35, on 04 November 2024.
- † Sr. Neha Beck at the demise of her uncle Mr. Francis Xaxa (60), on 06 November 2024.
- † To Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Bombay at the demise of Fr. Vincent Rasquinha SDB (78) on 30 November 2024
- † Sr. Sr. Mabel Gothorp and the FMAs of Guwahati Province at the sudden passing away of Sr. Anna Thekkanal, on 04 December 2024.

Let us continue to intercede before God for the needs of the province, the communities and the good health of all our sisters and the ailing members of our families.

Dear Sisters,

As we close the chapter on 2024 and prepare to welcome 2025, let us continue to support one another, cherishing the bonds that unite us and the shared Mission that drives us.

May this festive season be filled with peace, joy, and warmth for you and your families. Together, let's end the year with hope and excitement for the future. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025 !

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial

