



Cir/LP/38/01/2025

01 January 2025

Dear Loving Sisters,

Loving and New Year greetings from the Provincial House, Dum Dum !

As we unfold the Year 2025, let us be filled with Hope, Peace, and Joy of the Infant King of Bethlehem. May He bless us and bring us all to His heart, His passion may aglow in our hearts, and strengthen us to serve the Lord and His people. May our prayers be fervent, and our love shine bright, guiding all to heaven's delight. Let us strive, in the footsteps of our Blessed Mother, with compassion, kindness and love. May St. Joseph's protection, and may our Holy founders' guidance lead us through the year. May our communities be filled with joy and peace of the Lord and may our mission flourish and our charism shine like a beacon of hope in the world. Let us embrace the opportunity for renewal in our spiritual and apostolic lives in this year 2025. I am happy to extend my festal greetings of all the Salesian saints celebrated during January. Let us continue seeking their intercession in our spiritual journey and saving mission in the Church.



Feast of the Mother of God

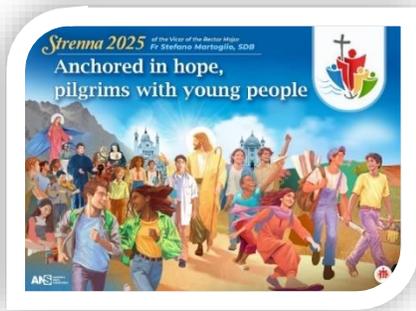


On New Year's Day, we celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**, our Lady's greatest title. This special day reminds us of Mary's vital role in our faith and the values she embodies. Mary's message to us is one of Hope, Faith, and Trust. She invites us to treasure and ponder the events and experiences that shape our journey, just as she did when the shepherds shared the news of Jesus' birth. Mary's example teaches us the importance of 'humility', 'obedience', and 'love'. She shows us how to surrender our will to God's plan, even when it is challenging or uncertain. As we honour Mary as the Mother of God, we're reminded of her intercessory role. Knowing that she will pray for us, we can turn to her for guidance, comfort, and support. In the words of Saint Francis de Sales, "Let us run to Mary, and as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with perfect confidence". May Mary's message of hope, faith and trust inspire us to deepen our relationship with God and live out our values with courage and love.

On this day the Catholic Church also celebrates the **World Day of Peace**, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope John Paul II. The theme for the 2025 World Day of Peace is "*Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace*". Mary's life exemplifies perfect obedience to God's will and her unwavering trust in His plan inspires us to surrender our lives to Him in humility and devotion. As the Mother of God, she not only bore the Saviour in her womb, but she also became the mother and model for each of us, guiding us with her maternal love and care. With Mary's gentle care and the grace of God, may 2025 be a year of deeper devotion, greater service, and abundant blessings for us all.

Strenna 2025

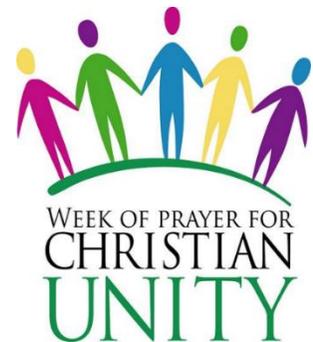
The Strenna 2025 is titled "Anchored in Hope, pilgrims with young people". The Strenna focuses on hope and brings into line with the Jubilee 2025 which began solemnly on 24 December with the opening of the holy door at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and the 150th anniversary of Don Bosco's first missionary expedition to Argentina. The Strenna invites us to make our missionary journey a deep connection with the faith of the young people and one another. This theme encourages young people to engage in the pilgrimage of life with optimism, resilience, and a deep connection to their faith and one another, with older pilgrims offering guidance and wisdom along the way. Our only hope is in Jesus and Mary who walks with us in every step that we take. In fact, on our journey Our Lady



takes us by the hand, teaches us how to trust in God, how to give ourselves freely to the love passed on by her Son Jesus. The direction and the "navigation map" that she presents us with is always the same: "Do whatever he tells you. I invite you and the educating community to read in detail and remain anchored in hope as we continue to accomplish our mission here on earth. (Kindly find in attachment: Strenna 2025)

Unity Octave

May we, as a community, embody the spirit of unity that Christ so deeply desired for His followers: "That all may be one" (John 17:21) as we pray for the Christian unity. The theme this year is "Do you believe this?" It is based on a dialogue between Jesus and Martha in Jn 11:17-27. Let us reflect on how we, too, can contribute to building a Church that is united in faith, hope, and charity, where differences are celebrated and love prevails above all else. During this time of prayer and reflection, may we be strengthened in our commitments of living the Gospel of unity, sowing seeds of understanding and respect, and working for peace and justice in our world. Let this Octave remind us of the deep bond that unites us all as one body in Christ, called to live out His mission of love and salvation. Let us walk this path with joyful hearts, trusting that the grace of God will guide us toward greater unity and a deeper love for our fellow Christians.



Blessed Louis Variara

Blessed Louis Variara was a Salesian priest and missionary known for his deep commitment to the service of others, particularly in the mission fields, where he devoted his life in spreading the Gospel and educating young people. His message often emphasized the importance of faith, charity, and dedication to God's service. In the words of Blessed Louis, let us remember that "the mission is not only in words but in the way we live our lives." As he did, may we strive to live out our vocation with the same passion, joy, and selflessness, especially in our service to the least among us. Blessed Louis Variara's life teaches us the importance of embracing God's call with humility and simplicity. His example encourages us to see every moment of our daily life as an opportunity to bring others closer to God, just as he did with the children and young people he encountered in the missions. Let us, like him, dedicate ourselves to the service of others, especially the poor and the marginalized, trusting in God's grace to lead us to greater holiness.



Happy Republic Day

As we celebrate the Republic Day of our nation let us be enthused by the inspirational quote:

- Republic Day is not just a celebration of our independence, but a reminder of the responsibility we carry as citizens of this great nation. Let us stand united in our diversity and work towards a brighter and more inclusive future for India.
- As we salute the flag of India today, let us commit ourselves to the ideals of truth, integrity, and service to the nation. May our actions reflect the spirit of unity and the strength of our Republic
- Our Constitution is the cornerstone of our democracy. On this Republic Day, let us renew our pledge to uphold its values, protect the rights of every citizen, and contribute towards building a more harmonious and prosperous India.



Blessed Laura Vicuna

Blessed Laura Vicuna the Teenager helps us to focus on her determination:

- Her life exemplifies a deep and unwavering commitment to God. It is an inspiration for us to strengthen our faith and live out our Christian virtues daily, even in small acts of kindness and love.
- She demonstrated an incredible sense of selflessness, especially in the way she cared for others.
- Laura loved her family deeply, and she was especially devoted to her mother. Blessed Laura encourages us to prioritize love in our relationships, whether with family, friends or our wider community, fostering unity and peace where ever we are.
- Laura died at 12, her life reminds us that holiness is not limited by age or circumstances. We are all called to be saints and each day is an opportunity to grow in holiness, no matter how young or old we may be.
- Laura's example challenges us to build a daily habit of prayer, trusting that through our conversations with God, we can find strength, peace, and guidance.



St. Francis De Sales



St. Francis De Sales emphasized on building a rich interior life through daily prayer, reflection, and connection with God. He understood that joy is a natural fruit of living a virtuous and faithful life. One of his central teachings was the importance of surrendering ourselves to God's will. Trusting in God's plan and letting go of our desires leads us to true spiritual freedom. He gives us the direction that daily prayer and devotion are the key to staying connected to God and growing in holiness. Establishing regular times of prayer and spiritual practices strengthens our faith. Francis de Sales teaches that holiness is about living with kindness, patience, trust in God's will, and devotion to our daily duties. He calls us to find peace and joy in all circumstances, to grow in our relationship with God, and to approach others with love and gentleness. His life reminds us that each person, no matter their role or position, is called to live a life of holiness in the service of God and others.

St. John Bosco

St. John Bosco, the "Father and Friend of Youth," left a legacy of love, education, and faith that continues to inspire millions around the world. He loved the young people and was ready to do anything for them. Among many, one of his sayings is "I care for you, because you have in your hearts the treasure of virtue." He also focused on the families. He highlighted the importance of



the family as the first school of love and education. He recognized the vital role that parents and caregivers play in the development of young people. We can promote strong family bonds by encouraging families to spend quality time together, fostering communication, and supporting parents in their role as primary educators. Families are the foundation of society, and by strengthening them, we contribute to a healthier future for young people. Therefore, let us be educators to the young people who are with us and entrusted to our care.

Communications

Inauguration of the FMA PCI Office

The inauguration of the FMA PCI office took place on 08 November 2024 at Auxilium Convent, Gobra, with the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Rev. Fr. Sunil Kerketta, SDB, Vice-Provincial of the Salesians of Kolkata. His inspiring message was focused on unity, perseverance, and faith as the foundation of all future efforts. Representatives from all the seven provinces and Mrs. Sucharita Bardhan, UNICEF communication officer were present on this auspicious occasion. It was the beginning of the leadership, teamwork, and collaboration for the FMA PCI. Communication plays a vital role in the development, commented Mrs. Sucharita Bardhan in her address. Sr. Arockia Mary Selvi Azarias (INT), the National delegates for Social Development, introduced the Annual Meet and shared its purpose. From our province Sr. Clara Swaminathan, who is PCI General Coordinator spoke about the importance of unity and commitment. The long-awaited PCI Office has become a reality now, and I wish and pray that it may bear fruit in abundance.



Meetings and Seminars

- ❖ The province youth coordinator Sr. Aruna Kispotta, Sr. Lourdu Prema Francis, seven postulants and three young girls of Auxilium Dum Dum are taking part in Salesian Youth Movement Fest South Asia Region held at Sacred Heart College- Autonomous, Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu, from 29-12-2024 to 01-01-2025 with the theme “ young People as Agents of Change: Anchored in Hope (Heb: 16:9)
- ❖ Sr. Amali Joseph will attend a short renewal course on Personal Growth and Renewal for Mission at Pune from 12 January – 08 March 2025
- ❖ Sr. Anjana Rai will join the parishioners of Mirik for a pilgrimage to Mumbai and Goa on 19 January 2025. Then, on 27 January, she will leave for Kerala, Kottayam, for Master's degree exams in Acupuncture.
- ❖ The Triennial Evaluation at the PCI level will take place from 24 – 28 January 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirapalli. Along with me, the following members will participate in the meeting: Sr. Rosy Veliyan, the province delegate, Sr. Lily Perumpetikunnel, the provincial council delegate and the two lay collaborators Ms. Carolina Hansda and Ms. Elizabeth P. Blake.

Gratitude and Appreciation to:

-  Sr. Shanty Mathew, the province administrator, and Sr. Alma Bilung, the KSSDS coordinator, for their meticulous planning and renovation of the computer and tailoring department into the FMA PCI Office.
-  Sr. Mary Ekka and the community of Auxilium Convent, Gobra for their wholehearted collaboration and service rendered for the inauguration of the FMA PCI Office and the Annual NDF meeting.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Rosa Pyngrope and the Sisters of Shillong Province at the demise of Sr. Marinella Hinge on 10 December 2024.
- † Sr. Inocencia Jojo at the passing away of her uncle Mr. Herman Jojo and aunty Salomi Jojo on 24 December 2024.
- † Sr. Maxima Dung Dung at the demise of her elder brother Mr. Corentinus Dung Dung on 28 December 2024.
- † Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva and the Sisters of Mumbai province at the passing away of Sr. Phyllis Fernandes on 28 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 step into the New Year of 2025, let us carry with us the grace and strength we have received in the past year. This new beginning offers us a fresh opportunity to deepen our commitment to the mission and each other, grounded in faith, hope, and charity. Let us continue to be instruments of God's love and peace in all that we do, embracing the challenges ahead with courage and perseverance. May this year be one of renewal, growth, and abundant blessings, as we walk together in synodality. I entrust each of you to the intercession of our Blessed Mother, asking her to keep you in her maternal care. May we remain united in our shared mission and the love of Christ, ever faithful to our calling.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial