



Cir/LP/42/05/2025

05 May 2025

*Dear Loving Sisters,
 Loving greetings from the Provincial House, Dum Dum !*

May - A Salesian Month

The month of May holds special significance for us, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Rich in Salesian feasts, it is rightly called the Salesian month, marked by a spirit of holiness that reflects our heritage. It begins with the feast of St. Dominic Savio, continues with the birthday and feast day of our saintly co-foundress, Mother Mazzarello, and culminates in the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians and the Feast of our Province.

St. Dominic Savio, a Model of youthful holiness

In his short life, Dominic Savio made a significant impact on the world with the simplicity of his holy life. His entire sojourn on earth was marked by simplicity, humility and a constant rapport with the Lord. Even at a tender age, his saintly character shone through in how he faced life's challenges and in the way he related to others—always inspiring them to strive for greater goodness. This youthful saint gives us the assurance that Jesus is a person whom we can always have a relationship with. We are made to be in a loving relationship with God and that's what our consecrated life invites us into. In imitating Dominic Savio, we are reminded to pursue holiness with consistency and joy. Dominic possessed remarkable spiritual wisdom, which gave him the strength to remain faithful to his goal of becoming a saint. His guiding principle "If I do not become a Saint, I am doing nothing" was one he lived out with unwavering love and determination. To us, he has given the conviction that what matters in life is the faithfulness and constancy in little things not just the big accomplishments and achievements. He is indeed a model for all time and a great witness to the faith more with his life than words. By following his example, we too can become living witnesses and inspire faith in others.

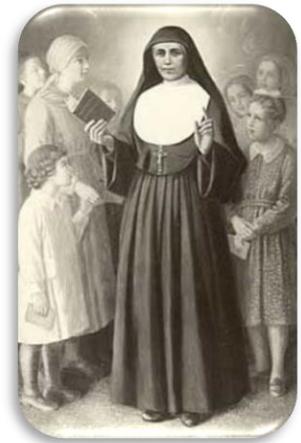


Birthday and Feast of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello

The birthday and feast day of St. Mary Mazzarello invite each of us to follow her path of daily holiness, expressed through love for God and for one another. She stands before us as a truly Marian soul, her life bathed in the light of Our Lady from childhood to death. When Pope Pius XI proclaimed the heroic nature of her virtues, he remarked, "There is something great in a life that

develops and unfolds under the guidance of such a mother.” Indeed, for St. Mary Mazzarello, Our Lady was the living embodiment of the sanctity she constantly aspired to—a radiant model she kept ever before her eyes.

St. Mary Mazzarello upheld this Marian ideal and passed it on to the sisters and girls, helping them to experience Our Lady’s motherly love and protection. Above all, she taught them to love Mary deeply and to strive to imitate her. The distinctive qualities of St. Mary Mazzarello are her humility, deep awareness of God’s presence, constant union with Him, tender devotion to Our Lady, simplicity of life, and tireless work. Though a peasant girl and village seamstress, she was a woman of great spiritual stature, marked by genuine charity, profound faith, and contagious joy. As her daughters, we are called to live, like her, the holiness of everyday life.



Like our saintly Mother Mazzarello, let us resolve to make holiness the goal of our spiritual journey—seeking constant encounter with God in the daily circumstances of life and in every person we meet. As we celebrate her feast, let us remember that she was not content merely to bear the title 'Daughter of Mary Help of Christians.' Rather, she dedicated herself to making Our Lady known and loved, spreading devotion to her, and most of all, striving to resemble her—so as to be her true daughter.

Feast of Mary Help of Christians

For us, FMA, this feast holds special significance. On June 9, 1868, St. John Bosco dedicated his congregation in Turin to Our Lady Help of Christians. A few years later, on August 5, 1872, he founded our congregation as a living monument of gratitude to her. This feast is a powerful reminder of our responsibility to carry forward Don Bosco’s spirit of thanksgiving to Mary Help of Christians throughout our lives.



Salesian tradition offers us ample means to foster devotion to Our Lady. Foremost among these is cultivating a deeply Marian atmosphere within and around us—an environment that reflects the Marian spirituality of our Institute and allows Mary to shine forth in our communities as the model we are called to imitate. By embracing her attitudes, we become, like her, true helpers—especially among the young people. Let us, then, commit ourselves to be authentic stones, carved and shaped into that Living Monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians, becoming sources of hope and life for young people—especially those shattered by the storms of life in today’s world. Let us seize every opportunity to make Our Lady known and loved.

Congratulations to all the sisters who pronounced their first ‘Yes’ on this great day. May you experience the tangible presence of Mary in your everyday life.

Dear Sisters, as I conclude, I invite you to follow in the footsteps of our beloved late Pope Francis by drawing a few lessons from his life:

"Walk with the People"

Pope Francis explained "Walk with the People" as a call for the Church and its leaders to be close to the faithful—living among them, listening to them, and sharing in their joys and struggles. He emphasized the importance of *pastoral closeness*, where priests and Church leaders are not distant authorities but compassionate companions. In his words, "**the shepherd should smell like the sheep**", meaning that spiritual leaders must be immersed in the lives of the people they serve. For Pope Francis, walking with the people reflects Jesus's own ministry—marked by humility, mercy, and solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

1. Leadership Lessons

- **Humility:** Lead with humility, admitting mistakes and valuing other's input.
- **Compassionate Leadership:** Prioritize empathy and compassion, understanding the experiences of the marginalized and creating a culture of active listening
- **Embracing Vulnerability:** Leaders should acknowledge challenges and mistakes openly to build trust and inspire collective problem-solving.

2. Personal Growth Lessons

- **Prayer and Reflection:** Develop a daily habit of prayer and reflection to cultivate a deeper connection with God and oneself.
- **Compassionate Heart:** Cultivate a compassionate heart that excludes no one, praying for all, including those who may seem far from God.
- **Letting Go of Envy:** Put aside envy and foster a desire to protect and care for one another.

3. Social Responsibility

- **Care for the Vulnerable:** Show special love and attention to the weakest and most vulnerable members of society.
- **Missionaries of Hope:** Be missionaries of hope through prayer and action, giving particular attention to the poor and marginalized.
- **Global Solidarity:** Foster global solidarity and responsibility, recognizing that no one can save themselves alone.

May Pope Francis, who loved our Blessed Mother Mary so dearly, now speak to her on our behalf, as we strive to live by the lessons he taught us.



Communications

Congratulations!

The Lord has done great things, holy is His name! We rejoice and thank God for the good results of ICSE & ISC in all our schools especially, St. Mary's Geyzing and Auxilium Kalyani, who have appeared for the first time.

Vestition, Profession and Renewal

- ✚ Our seven postulants Devi Lamare, Emiki Surong, Julisha Shylla, Indira Adele Chiramal, Pritilata Tirkey, Punam Digal and Riya Rose Mary will be making their vestition on 23 May 2025 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi.

- ✚ Our two novices Sr. Lily Syngkli and Sr. Sumira Dung Dung will be making their first profession on 24 May 2025 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi at 10.30 am. The Holy Eucharist will be presided over by Most Rev. Vincent Aind, the Archbishop of Ranchi.
- ✚ Our 21 junior sisters will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart novitiate Ranchi, Auxilium Convent Kurseong, Provincial House at Guwahati and Shillong, and Auxilium Convent Chapaguri on 23 and 24 May 2025.

We thank God for the gift of our postulants, novices and sisters for their courage to say 'yes' to God's call and their determination to commit themselves with enthusiasm and joy to the service of God and others. We felicitate them and offer our prayerful support for their resolve to be a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. Thanks to Sr. Shradha Kispotta and the Auxilium Aspirantate community, as well as to Novice Mistress Sr. Lily D'Souza and her community, for accompanying the candidates on their vocational journey.

Meetings and Seminars

- ❖ 26 Sisters from the province will participate in Policy book review meeting at Auxilium Dum Dum from 09 – 11 May 2025. Fr. Sebastian James SJ will be the resource person for the meeting.
- ❖ Sr. Clara Saminathan will take part in the PCI statutes formulation meeting at Auxilium Dum Dum from 15-17 May 2025.
- ❖ Sr. Jancy Pulickathottiyil and Sr. Maria Goretti Ekka will leave for Rome for Project Mornese on 1st June 2025 along with Sr. Mary Puthuppallil, who is going to the Mission ad gentes
- ❖ Welcome back to Sr. Margaret Fernandes and Sr. Maria Pettayil from Rome and best wishes for their new mission.

Gratitude and Appreciation to:

- 🌸 Sr. Rosa Pyngrope, the provincial of Shillong for having sent Sr. Bontila Makdoh to render her service for the past 4 years in our province. Sincere gratitude to dear Sr. Bontila for her generous service rendered to the communities of Geyzing and Thecho.
- 🌸 Sr. Rosalia Tirkey for accepting the mandate as the PCI Mission Sector in-charge, and we wish her all the best in her new mission as the coordinator of Mission Sector.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- ✚ We pay our homage of love and gratitude to our beloved late Pope Francis for his tireless and committed service rendered to the Church and to the World and we pray for his eternal repose. May he intercede for the people and the universe whom he loved so dearly.
- ✚ Sr. Teresa Mundackal at the passing away of her brother-in-law, Mr. Andrew on 27 April 2025

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.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial