

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum
Kolkata 700 028**



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February 2019

My dearest Sisters

Warm and prayerful greetings from Provincial House Dum Dum !

We begin this month of February with the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple by Joseph and Mary. The feast of the Presentation of the Lord calls to mind our own consecration to the Lord when we were baptized. On the day of our baptism, we too were presented to the Lord in His Temple, offering our lives to Him, thereby sharing in His kingly, prophetic and priestly office. In a special way, today's feast is also celebrated as the day of Consecrated life. For in consecrated life, religious brothers and sisters commit themselves more radically in living out their baptismal vows to the Lord. In the light of the Gospel let us look at consecrated life as an encounter with Christ: it is He who comes to us, led by Mary and Joseph, and we go towards Him guided by the Holy Spirit. He is at the centre. He moves everything, He draws us to the Temple, to the Church, where we can meet Him, recognize Him, welcome Him, embrace Him and constantly be in touch with Him. Seeking Him at all times.

Joan Chittister speaking of religious life states that all of the activities and ministries that we carry out however holy and worthy of attention, fundamental and imperative, through it all, one thing and one thing only can sustain religious life, can nourish religious life, can justify religious life. That of seeking God at all circumstances and seeing God and God alone in all confusion and speak of God and God alone in whatever situation we may find ourselves. Therefore consecrated life is to be a constant striving toward a deeper counter with the God of love and of His Son Jesus. This deep encounter with God takes on a new power in life, a power which enables us to be signs and bearers of God's love to all, becoming the incarnational presence among the young people for whom we have consecrated our life. Dear Sisters, let us become ever more conscious of our consecrated life and its obligations, its purpose, and its demands.

Our Holy Founder and Father Don Bosco in one of his conferences to the FMA said, "Do you expect to go to heaven in a carriage? You have become religious not to enjoy yourselves, but to suffer and gain merits for the next life. You have not consecrated yourselves to God to command but to obey, no to attach to yourselves to creatures and to things of this world but to practice charity towards others for the love of God, not to lead a life of comfort but to live a life of detachment and self giving in order to become worthy to share His glory in heaven."

If we encounter Jesus and our brothers and sisters in the everyday events of our life, our hearts will no longer be set on the past or the future but will experience the 'God of here and now' and live our lives with the warmth of burning fire of love in our hearts. May the Lord give light to our eyes and strength to our steps to walk together toward Him with the road

map of holiness as designed by our Holy Father: "Holiness is Joy and a Sense of Humour, Boldness and Passion".

As we await the canonical visitation of Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, we will continue to prepare for it in prayerful openness to the Spirit and entrust our encounters to Mary who continues to walk with us, as we seek to deepen the meaning of our commitment to God's Covenant of love which He has made with each one of us. Together with Mother Mazzarello we surrender the Province and its mission to Mary Help of Christians the patroness of our Province.

May the canonical visit of our dear Sr. Lucy Rose, the Visiting Councilor be an occasion for us to be reborn in the spirit and charism of our holy founders, strengthening the bonds of charity and deepening the commitment of fidelity to walk the path of holiness with and for the young.



We extend a warm and hearty welcome to our dear Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the Visiting Councilor and her secretary Sr. Veronica Kamei Pongtinei to our Province

Communications

The XXVII World Day of the Sick is marked this year in the city of Kolkata from 9 - 11 February. In his Message for the occasion, Pope Francis highlighted the example and testimony of the Mother of Kolkata. This year's theme is taken from the Gospel of Matthew: "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." The Holy Father has appointed Card Patrick D'Rozario, archbishop of Dhaka, as his representative. Card Peter A. Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is also be present. I had the joy of being present for this celebration.

I would like to place on record my grateful appreciation to Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel who was part of the organizing committee for Registration on this occasion of the XXVII World Day of the Sick. Congrats for having accomplished everything wonderfully!

Sincere gratitude to:



Sr. Aquila Phawa and the community of Thecho for the Novena in preparation for the solemnity of St. John Bosco.



Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil and the community of Auxilium, Bandel for hosting a number of programme in the month of January 2019.

- ✓ Animators Retreat: 14 – 21 January
- ✓ Animators Meeting: 22 January
- ✓ Team Meet: 23 – 25 January
- ✓ Provincial Council: 26 & 27 January

Dear Sisters may the Lord reward your dedicated and generous service accomplished with much love and sacrifice.

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- † Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekadathu (91) who passed away from the Salesian Province of Bangalore on 15 January 2019.
- † Sr. Teresa Tudianplackal's sister-in-law Mrs. Teresa who left this world to receive her eternal reward on 18 January 2019
- † Bro. Mathew Aayila SDB (80) from the Salesian Province of Bangalore who went to receive his eternal reward on 20th January 2019.
- † Sr. Pramila Ekka's sister-in-law Mrs. Rashmi who passed away suddenly on 23 January 2019.
- † Sr. Teresa Tudianplackal's maternal uncle Mr. Philip who left this world to receive his eternal reward on 25 January 2019
- † Bro. TV Mathew Thaiparambil SDB (78) who was called by the Lord on 01 February 2019 from the Salesian Province of Kolkata.
- † Sr. Clara Jeganathan (69) from the Province of Chennai who left this world on 03 February 2019.
- † Sr. Teresina Barretto (86) who expired on 05 February 2019 from the Province of Mumbai.
- † Mrs. Alyekutty Ezharath (66) who passed away on 01 February 2019.

Prayers requested for:



Thank you dear sisters for the prayers offered for the successful surgery of Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel, Sr. Rose Mathew and Sr. Pramila Ekka. All of them are recuperating. Let us continue to sustain them with our prayer.

Dear Sisters,

Today, on 11th February we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes appearing in the grotto at Lourdes, in France to Bernadette Sobirous. At the ninth apparition, Mary asked Bernadette to scrape the ground, saying to her "Go to the spring, drink of it and wash yourself there." There is only a little muddy water to begin with, enough for Bernadette to drink. At first this water is muddy and dirty then, little by little, it becomes clear. The spring signifies the cleansing of the human heart, wounded by sin yet healed through prayer and penance. Therefore, as we celebrate this feast let us go closer to the Lord, through Mary to Jesus so that we may be cleansed of all that is contrary to the love of God. May the devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes run deep in the hearts of all of us a sign of God's care and healing.



Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)