

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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July 2019

My dear Sisters,

Affectionate and prayerful greetings from the provincial house, Dum Dum!

Following the invitation of our dear Mother General, I am sure all the communities have taken up seriously the personal and community study and reflection on the theme of the General Chapter XXIV in view of giving your valid suggestions to the three questions. Let us be attentive to interiorize our reflections and sharing and make them part of our life so that by entering into the depth of the content that the theme offers us, we may discover and live our being together as educating communities with greater generative awareness. In preparing for the provincial Chapter, let us involve the young people and the laity and other groups of the Salesian Family. Let us also make sure that young people can express themselves and tell us what they feel and think.

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

Month of July brings the Feast of St. Thomas, the apostle. He is remembered primarily for two things: that he was the one who did not believe in the Resurrection, and that he brought Christianity to India. Thank God for 'Doubting Thomas'. His doubts healed the wounds of our own disbelief. They also open up for all who look with the eyes of faith a deeper understanding of the redemptive effect of the wounds of Jesus - and the role our own wounds can have in our continuing call to conversion as we join them to His.

Pope St. Gregory the Great comments that Thomas' incredulity, even his resistance to believing, did more to kindle our faith than the faith of the other apostles. For when Thomas saw the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of our mortal flesh, he uttered a profession of faith repeated countless times by Christians everywhere: "My Lord and my God!" That encounter with the Risen Lord changed Thomas forever. Not bound by the fetters of doubt and unbelief, he was no longer a *doubting* Thomas. He was instead an *evangelizing* Thomas who proclaimed the Gospel far and wide and bore witness to the Crucified and Risen Lord by his own death, his martyrdom. Thomas the doubter became the Thomas the model believer, an example for each one of us. He is a great beacon of light for all of us as we are called to cry out with him, My Lord and My God!

Blessed María Romero Meneses

On 7 July we celebrate the feast of our Blessed Maria Romero. She was known as "The Social Apostle of Costa Rica" and "The Female John Bosco". She was an apostle of charity and social reform, teacher and catechist, establishing villages with work opportunities for the

poor. She was also a mystic and apostle of the Holy Eucharist and of Mary. “With a passionate love for God and an unlimited confidence in the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sr. Maria Romero was an exemplary religious, apostle and mother of the poor people, who were her real favorites”, commented Pope Saint John Paul II on the day of her beatification. Let us make our own her saying, “Give to whoever asks you. And what can I give? I must give myself, I must give my intelligence to teach those who do not know, and to correct those in error. I must give my life. I must give my time so that all the thirsty can drink”.

All the other saints of the month – St. Maria Goretti, St. Joachim and Ann, St. Alphonsa and St. Ignatius of Loyola – are also an invitation for each one of us to make holiness as our way of life. St. Maria Goretti teaches us commitment to purity, a life of faith and forgiveness; Sts Joachim and Ann remind us that the elders are the transmitters of wisdom to the younger generations; St. Alphonsa is an inspiration for all of us to accept our daily cross with great serenity and peace and only for love of God; and St. Ignatius reminds us to do everything only for the greater glory of God.

Call to greater Commitment and Creative Fidelity

Dear Sisters, the three years that prepare us for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute that rose in Mornese on 5 August 1872, are an occasion for us not only to thank God for the prodigies of holiness of the past history but also a clarion call to greater commitment to holiness in creative fidelity to the founding charism. This demands of us a continual self-formation. Our Constitutions speak to this regard: “Religious profession lived in fidelity to God in the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, and as a response to the expectations of the Church and of young people, requires continual self-formation” (C 100). This ongoing formation helps us to know how to respond to the demands of our mission and the challenges of the present world as the GC XXIV convocation letter very well puts it. It implies a constant dedication and effort on our part for a spiritual, intellectual and professional renewal, so that it permits us to understand and respond to the new realities of the ever-changing contemporary world, and make our educational mission more and more fruitful.

Continual self-formation, understood in this way, helps integrate creativity with fidelity, especially since our vocation requires dynamic growth and a faithful response to the Lord's calls that come to us daily in a new way. The quality of our apostolate depends on this. It refers to a faithfulness that must reproduce with courage, the creativity and the holiness of our founders in order to carry out what Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello would do today. From this perspective, ongoing self-formation implies living in a continuous process of conversion and spiritual renewal.

The daily, renewed commitment to our vocation in creative fidelity implies also an assiduous dedication to reading and to the deepening of our charism. This requires setting aside time for reading and reflection on a daily basis. To this regard, in our Constitutions we read: “Each day we shall also dedicate ourselves to personal and community spiritual reading in order to deepen our spiritual, ecclesial, and salesian formation” (C39), and “let each Sister commit herself to setting aside a sufficient amount of time each day for extra formative reading” (R 25). Let us therefore dear Sisters, make use of all the opportunities given to us by our Institute to decisively renew our daily fidelity to Jesus and our educational mission, so as to be in the Church and in the society, a sign of love and hope for many young people. In

this way, vocational fruitfulness too will come to our communities. Let entrust each other to Mary our Mother and Teacher so that she will help us to be her true and authentic daughters in today's world.

Communications



Congratulations!

Congratulations and prayerful greetings to our dear Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan, Sr. Rosina Thekumkattil and Srs. Esther Rani Abraham, Kanta Tirky and Sr. Rosy Veliyen on the occasion of their Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilee of their Profession respectively on 5th August. With all our hearts, we thank them for their life of commitment and loving service. May God bless and reward you dear sisters.

On 08 July 2019, Pope Francis appointed 23 new members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA). It is a great joy for the Salesian Family especially for us, among these 23, our Mother General Sr. Yvonne Reungoat and Olga Krizowa, General President of the Secular Institute of Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB) is included. Let us implore God's blessings upon them and their new responsibility.

FMA - PCI

The FMA - PCI will be held at FMA Outreach, Shillong from August 20 – 22, 2019. The theme of the PCI will be "Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity". The Participants of the FMA PCI from the Province are Provincial Council delegate - Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil, Province delegate - Sr. Lily D' Souza, National Coordinator for Education - Sr. Clara Saminathan and me. Let us send prayers ahead for the success of the same.

Retreat

Aspirants retreat will be held from 21- 23 July 2019 at Auxilium Aspirantate, Bamunmura. It will be animated by Fr. Sunil Kerketta SDB. On 24th July our following 11 Aspirants will receive the Postulancy medal. Let us pray for our candidates in the formation house and intensify our prayers for more vocations.

BECK Neha

MARDI Anita Elizabeth

KUJUR Nayna Agatha

MINJ Elina

SOREN Bandana Bernadet

KUJUR Neha Lucy

MURMU Mina

TIGGA Angela

KUJUR Ursula

SEBASTIAN Sonam

TIRKEY Alice

Meetings and seminars

- Srs. Francesca Ekka and Lucy Kachira will be attending a course for the leaders of Salesian communities at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore from 15th - 28th July 2019.

- Srs. Mary Puthuppallil, Sherey Kalapurayil and Anima Xalxo will participate in the second phase of the TOT (Training of trainers) for the Child care facilities programme which will be held from 18 – 22 July 2019 at Tirchy, Chennai. It is organized by MIRACLE Foundation.
- All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) is organizing its 52 National Convention at Father Muller Convention Centre at Mangaluru, Karnataka from 29th August to 1st September 2019. Srs. Cordula Kullu and Mary John Valayath will be participating in the convention.
- Srs. Emilia Vas and Nirmala Tigga will be participating in the missionary formation course which will be held in Shillong from 01 September – 04 October 2019. This includes also a 12 day pilgrimage to the Holy land.
- Srs. Rosy Veliyan, Esther Rani Abraham and Kanta Tirkey will be attending a Salesian Renewal Course for Silver Jubilarians at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore from 2nd – 15th September 2019.

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- † Sr. Sandhya Minj's cousin brother Harsit Minj and his friend who died on 18th June 2019 in an accident.
- † Mother Antonia Colombo who returned to her eternal abode on 01 July 2019 from St. Ambrogio Olona, Varese
- † Sr. Delpina Bag's brother- in - law (elder sister's husband - 35 years) of who passed on 4th July 2019

Prayers requested for:



For our sick and elderly sisters Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan, Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel, Sr. Alice Olickal and Sr. Cecilia Tamba. Let us sustain them with our prayer.

Dear Sisters,

Heeding to the invitation of our Mother General to live synodal style of communities let us carry out every day, what we are all called to live in simplicity and depth following the example of the first community of Mornese. Mother exhorts us to place ourselves in docility to the Holy Spirit to be illumined and to discover in His light the marvels that God has worked in the history of our Institute, in the life and mission begun by Mother Mazzarello and in the first community of Mornese up to today. In this way, to find a realistic, concrete response that will help us to open our hearts to the marvelous action of God that has generated and generates holiness of life so that a new apostolic passion will invade our being and will renew in each of us the joy of walking together.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)