

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
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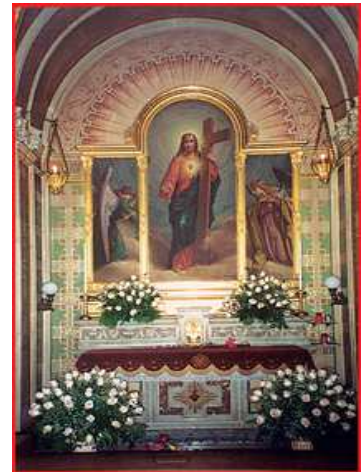
June 2019

My dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The heart has always been seen as the center of a person. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to Jesus Christ Himself. Devotion to the Sacred Heart has its origin on Mount Calvary, where Jesus' heart was pierced with a lance and this devotion can be traced back to the eleventh century. In the 17th century it was greatly popularized by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, to whom Jesus appeared, showing her his Sacred Heart.



The devotion to the Sacred Heart has no other aim but to imitate the virtues, sentiments and desires, and especially His unconditional love. Jesus himself presented his Heart as an example to be imitated by all believers: *"Take up my yoke upon you, and learn from me, because I am meek and humble of heart and you shall find rest for your souls"* (Mt 11:28-29).

On 11 June 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the entire human race to the Sacred Heart and asked that on that same day in all the churches of the world, the faithful gather and recite the same act of consecration. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "The consecration of the human race to the Heart of Jesus was "the summit and crowning of all the honours which have been customarily paid to the Most Sacred Heart".

Pope Paul VI would add, "The Church, in fact, was born from the pierced Heart of the Redeemer and from that Heart receives her nourishment, for Christ 'gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word' (Eph 5: 25-26)". Through the Holy Spirit, then, the love which permeates the Heart of Jesus is poured out into the hearts of men (cf. Rom 5: 5) and moves them to adoration of his "unsearchable riches" (Eph 3: 8) and to filial and trusting petition to the Father (cf. Rom 8: 15-16) through the Risen One who "always lives to make intercession for us" (Heb 7: 25).

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI speaking of the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus said: "In biblical language, "heart" indicates the centre of the person where his sentiments

and intentions dwell. In the Heart of the Redeemer we adore God's love for humanity, his will for universal salvation, his infinite mercy. Practising devotion to the Sacred Heart of Christ therefore means adoring that Heart which, after having loved us to the end, was pierced by a spear and from high on the Cross poured out blood and water, an inexhaustible source of new life" (Benedict XVI, Angelus 5 June 2005).

Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rome is an inexplicable sign of Don Bosco's devotion to the Sacred Heart. He showed his love and devotion by undertaking, near the end of his life, and at great cost and sacrifice to himself, the construction of this Basilica.

The feast day is an invitation for all of us to have great devotion and love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Eucharistic Lord in the Bl. Sacrament. He is truly present and He offers each of us His Heart and His Merciful Love. Let us consecrate ourselves in a special way to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Reflections and Recommendations from the Canonical Visitation



We have just concluded a very important and significant phase in the journey of our Province with the canonical visitation of our dear Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the General Councillor from Rome. In the course of the visitation that took place from 25 February to 17 May 2019, Sr. Lucy Rose journeyed with us and shared our lives as individuals and communities, our aspirations and desires, our commitment to rediscover the fascination for a personal relationship with Jesus to make an inner journey so that He alone is the centre of our lives and mission. During the community encounters, she reflected together on the importance of contributing our best to relationships and co-responsibility in our life and mission as well as the Tabor experience as the icon of consecrated life. I am sure you agree with me that it was truly a time of true and deep encounters, a time of transformation for each one of us and a time of grace and blessings for each of our communities and for the Province.

In her concluding reflections on the visitation to the 24 communities of our province, she has presented the "Life-giving Aspects" of our province, community and apostolic lives. She has also outlined for us some "Areas that need more attention". I invite you to go through them as a community especially the areas that need to give more attention as we continue to journey towards the 24th General Chapter.

On my part, I would like to recall your attention especially on the following points. You can even draw inspiration from them for the personal, community and pastoral project of the year:

- i) Deepen the mystical and prophetic dimension of one's life by being deeply rooted in a personal intimate relationship with Jesus, giving priority to personal prayer time and allowing oneself to be transformed in the Lord;
- ii) Accompany the Sisters with a listening, caring and understanding heart; deepen the interpersonal relationships by creating a more humane atmosphere where confidentiality is observed and where one can speak to each other with love and

- respect; in an attitude of trustful listening dialogue, share the difficulties, let go, forgive and move on
- iii) Rediscover the value of the personal encounter with the animator, taking the risk of being humble enough to allow oneself to be accompanied personally;
 - iv) Develop a strong sense of co-responsibility for the community and mission, working together for the greater good of all. This calls for great trust, sharing of information and honest, open communication;
 - v) Systematic, ongoing accompaniment of the Juniors by their local animator giving continuity in Christian, human and Salesian dimension of their life;
 - vi) Give vitality to Vocation Pastoral and its animation, each sister and community taking responsibility and initiative to promote vocations.
 - vii) Systematic formation of the lay staff in the Preventive system and Salesian spirituality;
 - viii) Plan and collaborate together regularly - Principal and the Sisters involved with her in running the school -for the good of the school, with a common vision and mission;
 - ix) Discover new and creative ways of accompanying the young people both personally and as groups, giving them quality listening/counseling and presence;
 - x) Reflect together on why the number boarders in some of the boarding schools are going down and offer guidelines on the assistance and accompaniment of students in the boarding;
 - xi) Make more effective the back to school programme, oratories, evening tuition etc. involving also the lay collaborators, past pupils and co-operators;
 - xii) Find out ways of reaching out to the young people who do not frequent our schools, the homeless, the migrants, those lost in drugs, in the technology world, meeting them where they are and helping them to encounter Christ.

Let our gratitude to Sr. Lucy Rose be expressed in our determination to live out her recommendations as far as possible, giving vitality and growth to our charism in creative fidelity and total self-giving. May Mary our most holy Mother be our guide, model and inspiration in all that we are and do for the extension of His kingdom!

Communications



Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to Sr. Rinki Nayak and Sr. Binita Bara after the completion of their Intensive Juniorate at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. We sincerely thank and appreciate Provincial Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal, Sr. Lydia Komuhra, the Animator and the Sisters of the Provincial House for the formative accompaniment and guidance of our sisters for the past one year.

We extend a warm return home to Sr. Shanti Palamoottil who will be returning to the Province on 1 July 2019, after 3 years of her studies in Rome. We wish her God's blessings for her future mission at Auxilium, Provincial House.

Sr. Ninet D'Costa, our missionary in South Sudan is in the Provincial House, Dum Dum for her home visit and for a refresher course. We are pleased to have her with us and wish her pleasant and enriching days ahead.



Congratulations!

We rejoice and thank God for Fr. Savio Silveira SDB, the Eleventh Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis Xavier (INB). May God shower his copious blessings upon him and his new ministry.

We rejoice and thank God for the **good results** of our schools. A sincere note of appreciation and congratulations to all our sisters, teachers and the students who spared no stone unturned to achieve this great success. I would like to place on record my appreciation and congratulations to Dimitri Mallik, student of Auxilium, Dum Dum who secured second rank in India in ISC Examination scoring 99.75%. I wish all of you a fruitful new scholastic year ! Let us make every effort to mould our young people who are entrusted to our care in all our institutions following the example of our first communities of Mornese and Nizza Monferatto as our Chapter document encourage us to do. The transmission of faith takes place through the contagious love of open, dilated hearts, where joy and enthusiasm express the rediscovered meaning and fullness of life. These communities with a strong missionary dimension are typically vocational, where many young people breathe a atmosphere of faith and of donation. (Cir. 985)

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”. I am sending you the PCI Convocation letter of Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, president of PCI and the consultation form. The consultation sheets should reach the Provincial office latest by **24 June 2019**. (Attach)



Meetings and seminars

- On Thursday 13th June 2019, there will be a seminar on the Preparatory Chapter Document (Cir. 985) for the sisters of Kolkata zone at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum. The resource person for the same will be Rev. Fr. Michael Fernandez SDB from the Salesian Province of Mumbai.
- Srs. Mary Puthuppallil, Sherely Kalapurayil and Anima Xalxo will participate in the TOT (Training of trainers) for the Child care facilities programme which will be held from 27 - 30 June 2019 at Mannivakkam, Chennai. It is organized by MIRACLE Foundation.



Sincere gratitude to:

- Sr. Rosalia Tirkey and the community of Sacred Heart Novitiate for hosting the second phase of the 2nd Novitiate from 15 April -15th May 2019 and Annual Retreat from 17 - 24 May 2019.
- We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Johnny Dominic SDB from the Salesian Province of New Delhi for having helped the retreatants to 'know the mind and heart of Jesus' and to arrive at the following convictions: When I have the mind of Jesus I know who I am, I know God's purpose, I am always aware that God is with me, I let God help me choose my Word, I am not worried about pleasing everyone, I am depend on God's power, I forgive my enemies and those who hurt me, I am willing to sacrifice for others and I want to do what God wants me to do.
- Sr. Lily D' Souza and the community of Mazzarello Convent and Sacred Heart Novitiate for making all the arrangement for the 1st profession of Sr.Joslin Xalxo and the Perpetual Profession of our dear sisters Sr.Ch Siljera Marak, Sr. Clara Rai and Sr. Neera Tigga on 24th May 2019 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi.
- Sr. Dorothy Torcato and the community of Kurseong for holding the Annual Retreat from 29 May – 05 June 2019 followed by a seminar on Liturgy and a day of animation by the Mission and Youth Pastoral Sectors of the Province.
- We are appreciative of Rev. Fr. Cletus D' Douza SDB from the Salesian Province of Mumbai for having facilitated the retreat and a day of seminar on Liturgy. We are indebted of Fr. Cletus for having helped the retreatants to take an inner journey to Reconsider, Relaunch, Recharge and Renew with DIVINE to walk by faith and to be WORDy FMA in the Galilee of their communities and mission
- Sr. Teresa Xalxo and the community of Auxilium - Kripalaya, Ghutiapara for the Novena in preparation for the solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- † My nephew Mr. Binoy who passed away on 07 May 2019
- † Mr. Chacko, the brother of Sr. Rosina Thomas who was called to his eternal abode on 12 May 2019
- † Mr. Sumit Toppo, the nephew of Sr. Anand Tirkey who met with an accident and passed away on 12 May 2019
- † Sr. Teresa Karakkal's paternal uncle Mr. Dominic (87) who went to his eternal home on 14 May 2019
- † Sr. Perez Mary Maddalene (95 years) who passed away on 19 May 2019 from the Province of Chennai.
- † Sr. Teresa Korattiparampil's bother-in-law Mr. Joseph who left this world on 27 May 2019.

- † Rev. Fr. Stroschio Rosario SDB (97years), the oldest Italian Missionary in India and the last missionary in the Salesian Province of Calcutta, formal provincial and a close friend of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta who breathed his last on 09 June 2019.
- † Fr. Reginald Gracias SDB (66 years old and a Salesian for 30 years) who passed away on 10 June 2019 from the Salesian Province of Mumbai.

Prayers requested for:



Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel, who underwent a surgery of the femur after a fall, Sr. Alice Olickal, Sr. Rose Mathew and Sr. Cecilia Tamba who is admitted in the hospital. Let us sustain them with our prayer.

Dear Sisters,

I would like to conclude my letter quoting from Mother General's Circular N. 988 as we are journeying towards GC XXIV and when we are officially about to open the diocesan process of Mother Rosetta Marchese's Cause of Beatification.

"That window of the Valponasca speaks to us of a heart that burned with the love of God, that was centered in Him, that had God at the center of everything, a heart that saw everything in God...To build community-communion, we always say that we must be open to dialogue, we must listen to each other, respect the thought of another, forgive each other, foresee. We say all these things are needed to arrive at communion. However, it is not these things that lead us to community-communion: they are only means. We arrive at community-communion only if we, instead of stopping at our sister, in our sister, we see the Lord beyond our sister. He is the Center...To have unity we must respect, help, welcome, dialogue, yes, but all this with one sole Center - Jesus! The open Heart in the Center, in the Tabernacle, He who is the life of everyone" (Conference of Mother Rosetta: Reflection on a little window).

Let us heed to the invitation of our Mother General to welcome the exhortation of Mother Rosetta with gratitude to give new life for our communities to build the solid foundation of the communities, so that we may walk in a synodal style with and for the young people.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)