

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**



Cir/RE/42/05/2019

May 2019

My dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum

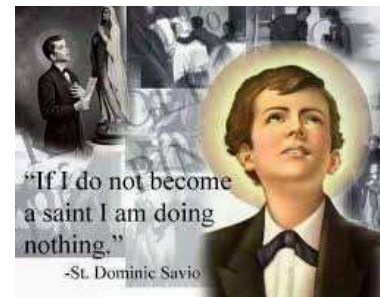
We have just ushered into the month of May, a month totally dedicated to Mary Most Holy. For us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians the month of May has a special significance as it is rightly called the Salesian month because it is flavored with Salesian holiness beginning with the feast of St. Dominic Savio, followed by the birthday of our saintly Mother Mazzarello and her Feast day together with a number of others blessed culminating with the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians and the Feast of our Province. Every feast of our Blessed Mother is a joyful event for us Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and each time we celebrate this feast it is an appeal to make that “living monument of gratitude to Mary”, raised by Don Bosco in the Church, shine with a new light.

St. Diminic Savio, Model of youthful holiness

The steady energy of this saintly young lad, Dominic was obvious. At a tender age he willingly undertook difficult tasks like assisting at Mass early in the mornings in the middle of the winter, long hikes to and from school, or silent acceptance of undeserved reproach. At Valdocco his strength of mind found many opportunities for expression. Without faltering he endured “the rather hard life at the Oratory. In spite of his own great courtesy and amiability, he sometimes had to put up with “insolence and threats and even insults” from his companions. He would blush deeply yet remain calm and forgive quickly. His courage in suffering, so evident during his last illness, made him, according to Don Bosco, “a model of sanctity.”

Dominic had enormous will power. Don Bosco says that he had found in him “a great human strength supported by grace.” This strength of will was directed toward a great ideal: “to become a saint,” a strong expression which well illustrates his attitude.

In his first encounter with Don Bosco at his room, Savio read on the wall, “Give me souls and take away the rest,” immediately the little boy exclaimed, “Here you deal with souls... I am a cloth and you be the tailor, make me into a beautiful garment for the Lord.” When St. John Bosco taught him that holiness involves being constantly joyful, he opened his heart to a contagious joy. He wanted to be close to the most abandoned and infirm of his fellow young people. Dominic died at the age of fourteen saying, “What a wondrous thing I am experiencing.” May the life of Dominic Savio who lived a saintly life intercede for the Church so that she is full of joyous, courageous and committed young people who can offer the world new testimonies of holiness.



Solemnity of the Feast St. Mary Mazzarello



The Solemnity of feast of St. Mary Mazzarello is an occasion for us to reflect on her spiritual experience so as to live the 'Sequela Christi' by becoming masters of the spirit, able to guide others in the ways of the Spirit. The centre of Mary Mazzarello's existence is that of God alone. Attracted by God, Mary Domenica made a vow of chastity at the age of fifteen and she made it radically and forever. Her ardent love for the Eucharistic Jesus is revealed in her daily pilgrimage during her teenage years and early adulthood from the Valponasca to the Parish Church to participate at Mass and then in Eucharistic Communion. Mary Domenica felt it was important to learn how to make oneself dear to Jesus. Those who are loved, desire to return love. She writes to Sr. Laura Rodriguez, Study how to make yourself dear to Jesus; to others she recommends to be courageous in corresponding to the beautiful grace received from Jesus (Letter 64). The most evident and resolute way to become dear to Jesus is to live and do everything for love of Him. Another aspect of her total love for God emerges from an expression often repeated by Mary Domenica, Everything to please God. She often reminded the Sisters of the motivations for every action: to work with an upright intention" (L 17: 1); always work with the right intention of doing all for the Lord and He will give you a wonderful treasure of merits for Heaven (L 59: 4).

The reflection on the spiritual life of Mary Domenica Mazzarello as a journey of docility and fidelity to the Spirit should reinforce in us the awareness that our FMA consecrated life is to be lived according to the Spirit creating in us a fascination for the Mornese environment, in the simplicity of life, joyfulness, poverty and family like relationship, in the ardent love for Christ and in missionary daring, which came to be known from the place where it all began as the "Spirit of Mornese." Dear Sisters let us really make effort to live this spirit of Mornese, so as to be ever more efficacious presence in the Church and in the world of young people.

Feast of Mary Help of Christians



The tradition of celebrating the Feast of Mary Help of Christians on May 24 goes back to 1571, when the whole of Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians when Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary: The great battle of Lepanto (October 7th 1571). In 1573 Pope Pius V instituted the feast in thanksgiving for the decisive victory of Christianity over Islamism. Through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, Vienna was freed from the Turks. On 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned to Rome after the captivity of Napoleon in Naples. Twelve months later, the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians, be kept on this significant day every year.

For us FMA this feast is considered to have a very special significance. On June 9 1868, St. John Bosco dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians, the mother church of his congregation at Turin (Italy). He founded the congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians as a living monument of his gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. This feast reminds us of our responsibility to prolong Don Bosco's gratitude to Mary Help of Christians all through our lives.

Mother General in her Circular letters invite us to revive the Marian face of the Institute testifying that the living monument of Mary Help of Christians is alive and dynamic. It means making ourselves available to write a piece of history every day with the young people, because only with them is the song of the Magnificat complete and can shine with the typical beauty of the Salesian charism. This year, therefore, is an opportune time for us to revive in all our communities the Marian traditions of the Institute as we prepare ourselves for GC XXIV getting attuned to what Mary said at feast of Cana: **“Do whatever He tells you.”** Gazing at Mary and drawing our young people to her, we can be penetrated by her grace, absorb her spirit, because she is not only for us an ideal to be contemplated, but the mould which models and transforms our lives. May our life, be a life lived in Mary, with Mary and for Mary making our own the proposal of Don Bosco: “Everything with Mary, nothing without her”.

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.

Christus vivit (‘Christ is Alive’) – Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation

Christus Vivit (‘Christ is Alive’) is the Post- Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, written in response to the Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, on young people, faith and vocational discernment, held from 3 to 28 October 2018. It was published on April 2, on the occasion of the *fourteenth anniversary of the death of St. John Paul II*. During his visit to the Italian hill town of Loreto, the Basilica of the Holy House of Mary, where Mary is believed to have grown up, he offered the Virgin Mary the Post-Synodal Exhortation.

Pope Francis begins his Apostolic exhortation saying, “Christ is alive! He is our Hope ... Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!” He continues again “He is in you; he is with you and he never abandon you. However far you may wander, He is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and He waits for you to return to Him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, He will always be there to restore your strength and your hope”. It is full of hope and encouragement and it is a reminder for us to grow in holiness and in commitment to our personal vocation. Let us read, reflect and share it with young people and live the clarion call to strengthen our faith to proclaim to the young people that Christ is alive, with our life and mission to those who are entrusted to our care.

Communications

- Sr. Ch Siljera Marak, Sr. Clara Rai and Sr. Neera Tigga have commenced the second phase of the 2nd Novitiate on Monday 15 April 2019 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi and conclude on 15th May 2019.
- Glad to communicate to you after much reflection and discernment this year we have opened an English medium School at Mazzarello Home, Monsada on Wednesday 10 April 2019. The response from the people is encouraging and supportive. 21 students have already been enrolled in the Nursery section.

- ✦ Welcome Back to Sr. Kishori Minj after the successful completion of the Fashion Designing Diploma Course at Nirmala Jyoti Technical Institute (FMA) Bannerghatta – Bangalore. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to Province Sr. Celine Jacob, Animator Sr. Crescentia D' Almeida and the community for the great care and assistance given to Sr. Kishori.
- ✦ We extend a warm welcome to Sr. Maria Helena, the General Councillor for Social Communications and her team who will be organizing a Seminar for the delegates of Social Communications at the PCI level from 03 – 08 May 2019 at AMAR Centre, Wadala. It will be coordinated by Sr. Hilda Braganza, the National Coordinator for Social Communication. The participants from our province are Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil, Sr. Celine Alexander, Sr. Shanti Tirkey and Sr. Namita Sabasundar

Retreats

- ⇒ 28 sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 17 - 24 May 2019 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi. It will be followed by Renewal, Vestition, 1st profession and Perpetual Profession. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. PD Johny SDB
- ⇒ 40 Sisters will make their Annual Retreat from 29 May – 05 June 2019 at Auxilium – Kurseong. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Cletus D' Douza SDB. It will be followed by a seminar on Liturgy and a day of animation by the Mission and Youth Pastoral Sectors of the Province.



Canonical Erection

I am glad to inform you that we have completed all the procedures of procuring a plot of land at Jhorahat, Nepal. Now we started the construction of a small house to commence the new community and our educative mission. We are extremely indebted to Fr. Mani Manuel Kariapuram SDB for seeing to the purchase of the land and the construction of the small house and all the other necessary requirements for our presence at Jhorahat. May the Lord reward and bless him a hundred-fold for his ceaseless endeavors.

Congratulations and God's blessings!



To Sister Alessandra Smerilli FMA who has been appointed by Pope Francis as State Councilor to Vatican City State. As we extend our appreciation, let us implore the guidance and assistance of our Blessed Mother Help of Christians her new Mission.



To our dear sisters Sr. Ch Siljera Marak, Sr. Clara Rai and Sr. Neera Tigga who will make their PERPETUAL PROFESSION on Friday 24 May 2019 at 9.30 am at Mazzarello Convent, Sahera – Ranchi. Most Rev. Felix Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration.



To our dear Novice Sr. Joslin Xalxo who will make her 1st profession on 24th May 2019 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi. Fr. Miachel Peedikayil SDB will preside over the Eucharistic celebration.



To our 8 Postulants Suchita Rahel Kanhar, Shanti Lakra, Genevieve Lyndem, Rashmi Madhuri Minz, Josephine Tulsi Nayak, Agnes Pradhan, Priyanka Pradhan and Udit Tirkey who will enter the Novitiate on 24 May 2019.



To our 5 Junior Sisters who will be renewing their vows at Sacred Heart Novitiate – Ranchi, Auxilium - Kurseong and at Provincial House, Guwahati.

We thank God for the gift of these our sisters and pray for them so that they may become instruments that generate life in the communities to become Missionaries of Hope and Joy to the young people.

General Chapter

Mother General Yvonne Reungoat, on 24 February 2019, in her Circular N.985 have officially convoked the General Chapter XXIV, according to article 138 of the Constitutions. The XXIV Chapter will begin in Rome, at the FMA Generalate, on September 18, 2020. The General Chapter *“is a key moment for evaluation, reflection, and guidance in a common search for God’s will”*. All the FMA and educating communities collaborate in this event *“through their prayer, study, and proposals”* (C.135).

The theme of GCXXIV is: **«Do whatever he tells you» (Jn 2:5).**

Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity

The goal of GCXXIV is ***To awaken the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of the Institute.***

The Vicar General, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, was appointed as the **Moderator** and assumed the responsibility of accompanying the preparation and development of General Chapter XXIV.

At the conclusion of the Circular, Mother writes: “Dear sisters, in this time of preparation for the GC XXIV, a time of grace for the whole Institute, we are invited to enter into the depth of the content that the theme offers us to rediscover and live our being together as educating communities with greater generative awareness. Faithful to the Salesian charism, we feel the need to grow in the capacity to ‘take care’ of reciprocal relations between the various members of the educating community, with and for the young people whom the Lord entrusts to us so that they may grow and flourish. In our homes, we also welcome migrants, poor and fragile people, women and girls in need, where everyone can find attention, care, affection, and the chance to look to the future with hope. In preparing for the Chapter, let us involve the educating community and other groups of the Salesian Family. In dialogue and sharing, let us make sure that young people can express themselves and tell us what they feel and think. We entrust ourselves to Mary so that, as at Cana, she will help us to listen to what Jesus tells us, to transform the water of our daily life into the wine of new vocational fruitfulness.

I invite every community to make great effort to promote vocations through camps and individual encounter. Every sister must feel that it is her responsibility to promote vocations for the development and fruitfulness of our Charism. May Mary who intervened at Cana be with us to help and guide us.

Meetings and seminars:

- 📅 A mobile workshop for photography was held at Don Bosco Nitika, Kolkata from 11 – 13 April 2019. Sr. Jancy Valliyil, Sr. Rosy Veliyen, Sr. Regina Joseph and Sr. Shanti Tirkey participated in it.
- 📅 Youth Pastoral Sector, Rome will be organizing a Youth Pastoral meet at the PCI level from 18 – 21 July, Katpadi college. It is will be coordinated by Sr. Molly Kaniyampadi, the National Coordinator for Youth Pastoral. The participants from our province will be Sr. Esther Rani Abraham, Sr. Clara Saminathan and Sr. Basanti Ekka.
- 📅 Midlife Seminar will be held from 9-12 August 2019 at Auxilium, Provincial House, and Dum Dum. It will be animated by PO Jose SDB.

Sincere gratitude to:



Sr. Rose Kureekattu and the community of “Nirmala Niketan” Jaigaon for the Novena in preparation for the solemnity of St. Joseph.



Sr. Teresa Karakkal and the community of “Maria Ausiliatrice” Gobra for the Novena in preparation for the solemnity of St. Mary Mazzarello.

Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- ✠ Sr. Dominica Thapa’s maternal grandfather Mr. Robert Rai who passed away on 21 March 2019.
- ✠ Fr. Thaiparambil Anthony SDB from the Province of New Delhi who left this world to receive his eternal reward on Friday, 22 March 2019.
- ✠ Sr. Gonsalves Dorothy FMA (91) who went to her heavenly home on 30 March 2019 from Divyadhanam , Manikandam, Tiruchirapalli.
- ✠ Sr. Mary Ekka’s youngest sister Ms. Fulkeria who passed away on 30 April 2019.

Dear Sisters, I would like to conclude this letter quoting the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis “Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you; he is with you and he never abandon you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he wait for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope” (*Christus Vivit*, 1-2)”. Therefore, let us be alive, alive in Christ, strengthened by the power of his resurrection.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)