

Provincial Circular

FMA PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOLKATA (INC)

**Provincial Office - The Salesian Sisters
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum
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My dear Sisters,

Affectionate and warm greetings from Provincial House, Dum Dum!

As we are fast approaching the celebration of the Provincial Community day with the theme, 'Synodal community, generating life and joy', and the sixth Provincial Chapter, one of the most important events in the life of the province, I thought of reflecting with you a few points on:

Building a Synodal Community Today, in the footsteps of M. Mazzarello and the first community of Mornese'

"We want to live a synodal style in our communities", we read in the document in preparation for GC XXIV. What do you mean by 'synodality' or being 'a synodal community'? It simply means a way of being and acting, a "walking together", "working together" promoting the participation of all in the common educational mission. If synodality is understood in this way, we can boldly say that even in Mornese, Mother Mazzarello and the first community lived this style of life. Therefore, I would like to reflect with you how synodality was lived in Mornese in order to announce the good news of the gospel, in other words, to be a missionary community with vocational fruitfulness:

i) The style of involvement and collaboration

The community of Mornese was based on the collaboration and involvement of all: FMA, lay collaborators, families and the girls themselves. It was characterized by 'presence' that was flexible and attentive to the needs of each, just like in a family where living together was pervaded by kindness, love and joy. Because Mother Mazzarello and the Sisters were aware that education requires a combination of interventions, complementarity, reciprocity, collaboration at various levels.

ii) Together with the young people

The synodal style of Mornese was that of "walking together with the young", which was much more than a simple "preferential option for the young", of "doing something for them". The young people were the protagonists of the journey of growth, and in the community all had something to give and something to receive from the young. Therefore, it was a matter of living in "communion with them", growing together in the discovery and understanding of the Gospel and in searching for the most authentic ways to live it and bear witness to it.

iii) In the style of the Preventive System

The community of Mornese was based on the values that characterize the Preventive System: the value of the human person created in the image and likeness of God, "taking care" of the

person who must grow in freedom, joyful and familiar acceptance; the values of attentive listening, trust, closeness, diligent and loving care, friendship, solidarity, gratuitousness, recognition of others, encouragement, adherence to God's plan, self-giving in love, in joy etc.

iv) Founded on the Eucharist

The synodal style of the Mornese community was above all based on the Eucharist, that is, on the logic of giving and of receiving. The daily appointment with Christ in the Eucharist was an invitation for them to become bread broken, to be a gift for others, especially for young people. The Eucharist enabled them to live a Eucharistic existence and also to become a way of walking together with the young, giving themselves in reciprocity and love.

v) With the style of Mary: spiritual motherhood

The style of "walking together" (synodal lifestyle) by the first community of Mornese recalls the style of Mary of Nazareth: spiritual motherhood. This motherhood was expressed in maternal solicitude, in intuition and in acting with the heart of a mother, like Mary of Nazareth at the wedding at Cana and at the foot of the Cross. This spiritual motherhood was closely connected to their capacity for interpersonal relationship, in their capacity for listening, sisterly help, patience and unconditional trust.

Let us therefore, look at Mother Mazzarello and the first community of Mornese and learn from them to live the synodal lifestyle, also in each of our communities. To do this, we also need to intensify the 'family spirit' in the community, which provides the conditions for this to happen. What are these conditions? Our Mother General proposes four conditions:

- gift each other with an attentive listening that expresses acceptance of the other as a part of myself;
- value/appreciate everyone's contribution in the community;
- involve everyone and make each one co-responsible
- give importance to dialogue in the community where the person is at the center and can freely express herself, her richness and creativity.

The logic of walking together, as we said, finds its strength in the Eucharist (cf. C 40). It was thus for Mary Domenica (remember the 'window' of the Valponasca) and also for our Sisters in Mornese who found in the celebration of the Easter mystery, the secret to make themselves a gift of love. Let us therefore focus our attention on forming Synodal Communities in our province.

I am sure that you are in full preparation for the Provincial Chapter. I believe that you have received all the instructions and guidelines and also some of the responsibilities from Sr. Elizabeth Vallyil, the Moderator of the Provincial Chapter. Give also your positive Proposals for GC XXIV as well as suggestions and proposals for the growth of the Province.

BLESSING OF THE HOSTEL BUILDING AT THECHO

On 31 August Sr. Stella Potteparambil and I had the joy of being present for the Blessing and Inauguration of the New Hostel building at Thecho, Nepal. I thank God for this beautiful gift. We read in the Psalm 127 "If the Lord does not build the house in vain do we labour." It

is indeed a gift from God and we praise thank Him for His benevolence to us. Rt. Rev. Paul Simick, Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal officiated the holy Eucharist which was followed by the inauguration and blessing of the Hostel building in the presence of a good number of people, benefactors and well-wishers. It is indeed the realization of a long-cherished dream to provide more space and better facilities and to accommodate more boarders as there is great demand for boarding for children from the interior villages where there are no proper schooling facilities. The building is beautifully constructed and it is well done. I really appreciate and thank all those who have been instrumental in its completion. I want especially to place on record the hard work and the meticulous supervision carried out by Sr. Aquila Phawa, together with her community members who collaborated with her whole heartedly for the realization of this project. Together, let us thank the Lord and praise Him for his goodness.

FMA PCI 2019

The FMA PCI Meet 2019 was held in Shillong from August 20-22. It was presided over by the loving and encouraging presence of Sr. Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, the Visiting General Councillor, and the sisterly presence of 30 participants, the seven Provincials, Delegates and the National Coordinators of various sectors. During the three days, we deepened the motherly solicitude of Mary, the woman of the new vine, and her mandate “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn. 2:5). We had the presentation of the National Reports from each sector by the National Coordinators. Discussions were also held on the three-year preparation for the Centenary celebration of FMA Presence in India and the National Education Policy. There was a session on “A purview of the way to answer the questions posed in the preparatory document of GC XXIV”. An interactive session with Sr. Lucy Rose helped the participants to arrive at some Proposals to GC XXIV at PCI level. Each Province also had the opportunity of creatively sharing with FMA India, a significant event in the Province.

We sincerely thank dear Sr. Lucy Rose, the presiding General Councillor, Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the President of PCI and Sr. Ambrose Little Flower, the PCI Secretary, and Sr. George Elizabeth, the Provincial of the hosting Province, for their remarkable contribution to the success of PCI 2019. We sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Happyline Mary Shadap and the community of ‘FMA Outreach’ - Lurshai’ for their generous service and loving hospitality. Let us continue to journey with hope and joy towards creating “Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity”.

Communications



Meetings and seminars

- Srs. Mary Puthuppallil and Sherely Kalapurayil are participating in the third phase of the TOT (Training of trainers) for the Child care facilities programme which is held from September 13 -15, 2019 at Manivakkam. It is organized by MIRACLE Foundation.
- The 2nd Asian Pacific Region Congress of the FMA Past Pupils will be held in Thailand from October 9-13, 2019. Sr. Elizabeth Joseph, the delegate of the Past Pupils in the

Province and Shreoshi Das & Shreya Sharma from the Past Pupils unit of Vasant Vihar – New Delhi will participate in it.

- ❖ Juniors meet was held from 26 – 29 August 2019, at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum. It was organized by Sr. Teresa Adampakallel, the formation in charge and animated by Sr. Rosalia Doss and Sr. Saroja Mary Pichai from the Province of Chennai.
- ❖ Midlife Seminar was held from 9-12 August 2019 at Auxilium, Provincial House, Dum Dum. It was facilitated by P.O. Jose SDB. 39 sisters took part in it.
- ❖ The New Education Policy was presented at Auxilium, Bandel on Saturday 24 August by Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB for the sisters and teachers of Kolkata Zone. 60 of them participated in it. It was organized by the Education Sector of the Province.

Thank you dear Animators and sisters of the communities of Auxilium, Dum Dum and Bandel for hosting the above seminars. May God bless your availability and sacrifice.



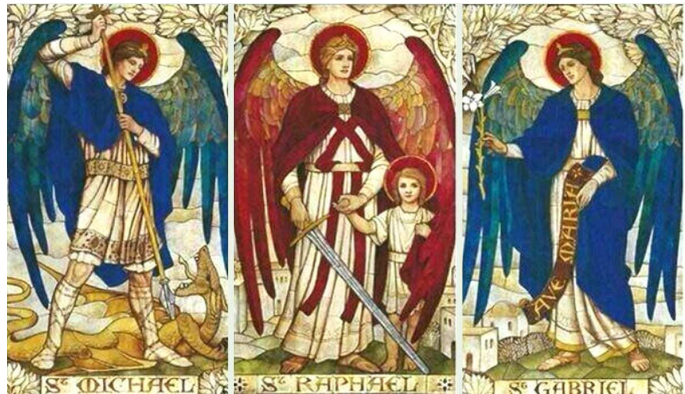
Condolences - Let us pray for our dear Departed:

- † Fr. Thomas Augustine SDB who passed away from Salesian Province of Bangalore on July 07, 2019
- † Sr. Premika Tirkey's father Mr. John Tirkey who passed away on July 13, 2019
- † Sr. Teresa Thudianplackal's aunty Mrs. Thresiamma who died on July 14, 2019 at the age of 93
- † Aspirant Mariyana Lakra's brother Prashant Lakra who was called to his eternal home on July 15, 2019. He was just 12 years old.
- † Sr. Nunes Victoria Claudia FMA from the Province of Guwahati who went to her eternal abode on July 17, 2019.
- † Sr. Sadhana Majumdar's grandmother Mrs. Rejina Majumdar who returned to her heavenly home on July 18, 2019
- † Sr. Alitrice sister in law Mrs. Alisha Sohtun who passed away on July 18, 2019
- † Sr. Nirmala Tigga's elder sister Ms. Monica Tigga who was called to her eternal home on July 20, 2019
- † Sr. Anna Zucchelli who was called to her eternal home on August 10, 2019 from the Province of Milan and the community of Contra di Missaglia. She served the Lord in the Institute as Visiting Councillor and Secretary General.
- † Sr. Glorina James FMA from the Province of Chennai who went to encounter the Lord the on August 20, 2019
- † Sr. D'Silva Lorenza FMA from the Province of Bangalore who went to meet the Lord on August 27, 2019

- † Sr. Asha Kerketta's brother Mr. Kuldeep Kerketta who passed away on September 4, 2019
- † Fr. Ignas Macwan SDB from the Salesian Province of Mumbai who went to meet the Lord on September 09, 2019 at Baroda.
- † Sr. Rose Mathew's elder sister Mrs. Annamma Thomas who passed away on September 9, 2019.
- † Fr. Antony Joseph SDB, the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy who was called to his eternal home suddenly on September 11, 2019.

Dear Sisters, the liturgical feast of the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on 29 September invites us to entrust ourselves to them so that they may help us to fight against the seductions of the devil and avoid taking the wrong path in our life's journey. On the occasion of this feast Pope Francis once explained:

"The angels are before the Lord to serve him, praise him and also to contemplate the glory of the face of the Lord: Angels are the great contemplatives: they serve and contemplate, but the Lord also sends them forth to accompany us in the journey of life". In Sacred Scripture, the Archangel Gabriel is the messenger sent from God who announces the coming of the



Messiah. The Archangel Raphael served as a guardian angel protecting Tobias on his journey and the one who heals Tobit from his blindness. Michael, the Archangel, is the great warrior against evil and the protector of Israel. Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that angels are "purely spiritual creatures, angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures" (CCC 330).

These angels play a significant role in our life as we journey towards our promised land. Therefore, as we celebrate the feast of the archangels let us entrust ourselves to the care of these angels so that they may defend us and take us by the hand and walk with us along the journey of our life.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA
(Provincial)