



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
Mary Help of Christians Province - INC
Kolkata - India



Provincial Circular

Salesian Sisters, Auxilium Convent
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum, Kolkata - 700028

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Dear Loving Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings for a very holy and fervent month of May!

The Spirit of our Origins as it was lived at Mornese

May, a month very dear to all of us rekindle the flame of our call, as we epitomise the “Living Monument” an expression of Don Bosco’s perennial gratitude to Madonna, the Help of Christians. In this circular, I want to highlight the letter of Don Bosco to the FMA on May 4, 1886. This could be an apt reflection for all of us as we turn a new page in our lives to form fresh communities. “Before God, it seems to me that the Institute needs Sisters who are imbued with the spirit of self- denial and sacrifice that fills them with the desire to work and suffer for Jesus Christ, and for the good of their neighbour; it needs sisters who are firmly convinced that exact obedience, without criticism or complaint, is the path they must courageously tread in order to attain perfection and holiness; it needs Sisters who can master their own affections and keep their hearts fixed on God alone in order to be able to say together with Saint Francis de Sales, “If I knew that one fibre of my heart was not for God, I would tear it out”; Sisters who neither regret having left the world, nor long for the possessions and conveniences they have renounced; Sisters who deem it a privilege to live in a condition of poverty and privation in imitation of their divine spouse Jesus who, being rich made himself poor, in order to enrich people with his grace and to make them heirs of Heaven; Sisters who have no other ambition on earth than to follow Jesus Christ who was humiliated, crowned with thorns, and nailed to the cross so that they may, thus, praise him surrounded by the angels and saints in the glory of heaven. The above exhortation challenges us with the following points to reflect on:

- Our vocation as FMA and its implications and demands
- Characteristics of our Vows: Obedience, Chastity and Poverty
- Modern disease of cancer according to Pope Francis
- Mother Mazzarello’s words of sisters leaving the world
- Portfolio of our spouse Jesus Christ, whom we are called to follow

It needs Sisters who have a strong physical constitution, good character, and a reasonably cheerful disposition, who desire above all else to become saints, not by doing anything extraordinary but only the ordinary, thus becoming an inspiration to others, especially young

people, attracting them to the practice of Christian virtues; finally, it needs sisters who are, or at least can become effective instruments for promoting the glory of God in fulfilling those responsibilities, and the accomplishment of those activities proper to the Institute.

Today, we are faced with various demands and challenges in our mission, but we also have a response in the words of Don Bosco. Let us be aware of our strengths and weaknesses and how to keep cheerful dispositions, amidst all our difficulties and struggles to be a source of inspiration and witness among the recipients of our mission. The educational experience of Maria Domenica Mazzarello and the first sisters of Mornese may still inspire us to live our daily life in joy which is the sign of a heart that loves the Lord very much even amidst daily odds of life. We need to listen to God's voice to learn the true wisdom of life to build our communities into a 'house of the love of God', to live in a reciprocity of relationship rich in Gospel values. Let us be aware of being called together by the love of God in Christ, to seek to live as sisters who love one another with genuine affection, and authentic friendship and share the same passion for God and another.

Dwelling on the past or focusing on the future can make you lose sight of your present life. We place our trust and confidence in the Lord and forge ahead on the journey we embarked on because not even a leaf falls without the knowledge of God. " Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8) Let this be our attitude as we continue our journey of community communion so that all our communities can be Mornesian community ... a house full of fervour, of zeal for the good souls, of the spirit of sacrifice, of perfect obedience, of holy silence, and angelic simplicity and cheerfulness.

We journey with Mary Most Holy, the Help of Christians in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello





We are already in a month dedicated to Mary and dear to all Christians, especially to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians whose name we bear with love and pride. The dream which Don Bosco had at the age of nine would affect very profoundly the entire life of Don Bosco. It was the foundation for all his apostolate. It also shows how profoundly the Our Lady was present in the life of John Bosco right from the beginning. John Bosco donned the clerical habit on October 25, 1835, and four days later, on October 29, as he was preparing himself to report at the Seminary of Chieri, Mamma Margaret, approached and said: "When you were born I consecrated you to the Madonna, when you started your studies I advised you to have a tender devotion to this Mother. John, now I recommend that you be all hers!". St. John Bosco kept this devotion to Mary all through his life and imparted the same to others.

For Don Bosco Mary was a powerful queen, an inspirer and a teacher who obtained all that he needed from Jesus because he was her son. He turned to her in faith and confidence. She is also a powerful queen for us. Our constitution Article 44 invites us to turn to her trusting in Don Bosco's words, "It is Mary who guides us", and also to imitate her by honouring her. "Let us turn to her in simplicity and confidence, celebrating her liturgical feast, and honouring her in those

forms of prayer proper to the Church and Salesian tradition, especially the daily praying of the Rosary, in which we relive, together with her, the mysteries of our Redemption". St. Mary Mazzarello tells us in her letter no. 44 " Be very devoted to the Virgin Mary, our most tender Mother Imitate her virtues, especially humility, purity and reserve. If you act in this way you will be happy in life and death". *Let us be instrumental in cultivating devotion to Mary and encouraging others to pray the Rosary through our family visit.*



Communications

Vestition, Renewal, Profession, Perpetual Profession

-  The Renewal of 12 Temporary Professed Sisters will take place on 23 May 2024, at Sacred Heart - Novitiate, Ranchi and the other 8 junior sisters who are outside the province will renew in their respective places of Shillong, Guwahati, Chapaguri and Kurseong.
-  The Vestition of 5 Postulants Baxla Anisha, Hansda Jebita, Lakra Nilin, Shylla Monica and Tirkey Akhima will be held on 23 May 2024 at Sacred Heart - Novitiate, Ranchi.
-  The first profession of our 3 Novices Kullu Preety, Lakra Mariyana Oliva and Pradhan Sudhanjali will take place on 24 May 2024 at Mazzarello Convent, Ranchi at 10.00 am. It will be officiated by Most Rev. Vincent Aind, the Archbishop of Ranchi.
-  The Perpetual Profession of Sr. Bara Binita, Sr. Sten Ba-I-Thiang, and Sr. Xalxo Shashikanta will be held on the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity on 26 May 2024 at St. Patrick Church, Dum Dum at 9.00 am. Most Rev. Thomas D' Souza, the Archbishop of Calcutta will preside over the Holy Eucharist.

We rejoice and congratulate these sisters of ours for their courageous "Yes" to the Lord with joy and enthusiasm. We pray for them so that their hearts may continue to burn with deeper love, commitment and fidelity above all measures and conditions to bear abundant fruit for the kingdom of God in season and out of season.

Gratitude and Appreciation

-  Sincere gratitude to Sr. Shradha Kispotta and the community of Auxilium, Aspirantate and to Novice Mistress Sr. Lily D' Souza and the community of Sacred Heart, Novitiate for accompanying our postulants and the novices respectively with care and concern, dedication and love. May the Lord reward you a hundredfold dear sisters!
-  Appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Elizabeth Valliyil, the coordinator of the second Novitiate program, Sr. Inocencia Jojo and the community of Mazzarello Convent Ranchi, for the

support and assistance offered to our three dear sisters during the second phase of the second Novitiate to prepare themselves for their final commitment.



Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel and the community of Auxilium, Barasat for enabling the sisters to prepare well with novena practices for the solemnity of St. Mary Mazzarello.

Silver Jubilee: We sing the praises of God for the gift of our dear Sr. Celine Alexander Virakodiyanal, Sr. Mary John Valayath and Sr. Rejina Joseph Adampakallel as they celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their Religious Profession on 24 May 2024. The Lord has done marvels through their life of fidelity and joyful service in the vineyard of the Lord. We pray that the Lord may continue pouring his extravagant love and blessings upon them and their ministry.

A loving greetings to all the sisters who pronounced their first 'Yes' on this great day. May the Lord delights in you and may you experience the perceptible presence of Mary in your everyday life.

Meetings: I will be participating in the National CRI Assembly 2024 at Dharmaram-Christ University, Bangalore from 13 to 17 May 2024. The theme of the Assembly is 'Journeying with Hope: Relevance and Shared Response'.

Welcome Back: We are glad to have our sisters Sr. Rejina Joseph Adampakallel and Sr. Neera Tigga return to the Province on 01 July 2024 after completing their studies. The former has done a year of formation course at Auxilium and the latter two years of Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta. We wish them a fruitful apostolate filled with enthusiasm and deep-rootedness of the Salesian charism.

Students for Italy: Sr. Margaret Fernandes and Sr. Anima Minj will be leaving for Rome on 29 May 2024 for their studies. Sr. Margaret will be joining for a year of Formation course at Auxilium, "S. Maria D. Mazzarello" and Sr. Anima will undertake a two-year course on Salesian Spirituality at "Madre Ersilia Canta". We promise them our prayers and best wishes for an enriching experience.

Juniorate at Guwahati and Shillong: Sr. Anandina Dung Dung and Sr. Hemlata Tigga, Sr. Kalpna Lakra and Sr. Rashmita Baa will be joining the interprovincial intensive Juniorate at Guwahati and Shillong respectively. We support them with our prayers to have an enriching formative experience.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

† Sr. Suzan Maria Louis at the demise of her cousin Ms. Merlyn (27) on 01 April 2024

† Sr. Udit Tirkey at the passing away of Mrs. Ursula Tirkey, her paternal aunt on 08 April 2024.

† Rev. Sr. Margaret Devadoss and the sisters of Chennai Province at the demise of Sr. Hilda Felix on 20 April 2024.

Dear Sisters,

I would like to conclude the letter by highlighting the preciousness of our vocation to be a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians as we prepare to celebrate her feast and renewal of our consecration. Each FMA is a living image of Mary, the Virgin of the Magnificat, in fidelity to the charismatic plan of Don Bosco who wanted the Institute to be the "... living monument of gratitude to the Blessed Virgin under the title of Mary Help of Christians" and a sign and witness to the love of God for young people.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial



**Happy Feast
of St. Mary Mazzarello &
Mary Help of Christians!**