



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

Cir/LP/34/09/2024

01 September 2024

Dear Loving Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum!

We have every reason to acknowledge God's manifold blessings as we enter the new month of September. This month is special because we celebrate the birthday of our Blessed Mother, the feast of Saint Mother Teresa, Teachers' Day, and also we commemorate other significant saints of the Catholic Church. Let us participate consciously in all the events we encounter. It is truly inspiring to celebrate at universal, national, church, and community level these events and celebration. May our Blessed Mother and all the saints in heaven guide and illuminate our journey through life.

FMA-PCI Meet: 'For an Animation that Generates Life'

The Inter-Provincial Conference of India was held from 16 to 21 August 2024 at St. Joseph Training Center, Lonavla, Maharashtra, India. The participants were Mother General, Rev. Sr. Chiara Cazzuola and 7 General Councillors - the Vicar General, Sr. María del Rosario García Ribas and the General Councillors of the various Sectors: Sr. Nilza Fatima de Moraes (Formation), Sr. Leslie Sándigo (Salesian Family), Sr. Ruth del Pilar Mora (Missions), Sr. Maria Ausilia De Siena (Social Communication), Sr. Ena Veralís Bolaños (Administration), and the Visiting Councilor Sr. Celine Jacob, along with the 7 Provincials of the Inter-Provincial Conference of India (PCI) their respective Council Members and the National General Coordinator and the National Coordinators of various Sectors.



The staff and the students of Auxilium Convent High School, Lonavla, displayed the splendid culture of India through a soul-stirring dance performance during the welcome ceremony. The entire assembly was captivated by it. With heartfelt joy, Mother Chiara expressed, how she felt the spirit of the Founders reigning among the sisters and the Educating Community. She said

that Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello wanted to give hope to the young through education and she could experience that hope in the young before her.

The meeting was presided over by the Mother General and her Council in a very systematic, meaningful and in vibrant manner. The principal theme, 'For an Animation that Generates Life', carried its sub-theme every day such as:

1. The service of authority today: opportunities and challenges for Consecrated life – The threefold mission of serving, animating, governing
2. To Govern and Animate in the 'SYNODAL STYLE'
3. The Beatitudes of the 'Culture of Care'
4. At the service of a mission that generates life
5. Towards a more generative and synodal service of animation and government of the Institute

Each day was concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, creatively animated by each Province based on the theme of the day, followed by a thought-provoking good night by Mother Chiara.

Walking in the footsteps of apostles

The 'Lectio Divina' was made daily from Acts of the Apostles, which was prepared by Sr. Maria Ko, the biblical scholar of the Institute.

1. "You will receive power from the Holy Spirit and you shall be my witnesses... even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1: 8).

We are called to take an active and creative part in a mission greater than our aspirations, in a project that transcends us. As at the beginning of the Church, the Spirit is given to us today as "strength," in an ever-new, vital form. It is good to look to the future with this certainty, despite so many discouraging signs.

2. "A complaint arose" (Acts 6: 1-7). A synodal way to face the problems
Problems are inevitable; difficulties will emerge, paradoxically, precisely from the success of the mission. Conflicts are part of the process of growth, adaptation and revitalization therefore be managed and not simply ignored, suppressed or demonized. The twelve apostles followed a style of leadership which is expressed today as "synodality" (syn-odos = making a way together, walking together).

3. "Go up and join this chariot!" (Acts 8:29).
The Gospel opens to those who are far away

Even in the lives of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, God's manifestations also happened in a similar way like that of the apostle Philip. The Spirit gave them a great passion for the salvation of young people, guiding them step by step but without letting them see the whole way ahead. They were attentive to every little sign from above,



sensitive to the changing cultural and social context, timely in adapting to circumstances, and quick to seize every opportunity for the benefit of their young people. Thus step by step an educational style, fruitful work and a large family were born which prolonged the Salesian spirit in time and space. The Ethiopian's question, "And how could I, if no one instructs me?" reveals the yearning for guidance, which resonates with the "cry of the young" today and can prompt us to "rekindle our commitment to caring for and accompany the new generations" (Acts GCXXIV, 33).

4. "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality" (Act 10:34). The difficulty to change of mentality

Peter's openness springs from overcoming the barriers, prejudicial resistances, and uncritical stereotypes, which prevent a positive gaze on the "other" and "new" world. Perhaps we too have resistances conscious or unconscious, manifest or hidden, and barriers (psychological, cultural, relational, mental, spiritual, etc.) to recognize and overcome to become "generative" and "outgoing" communities. Often the fall of barriers occurs through encounters and personal dialogue as in the case of Peter and Cornelius under the guidance of the Spirit.

5. "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us" (Acts 15:28). A synodal experience to articulate communion

Joy and mutual encouragement among the brothers in the Acts are a sign of the Lord's pleasure and proof of the fruitfulness of the decision taken in a synodal manner. Acts 15 can be of great help to us in carrying forward what we have assumed among the "priority choices" of GC XXIV:

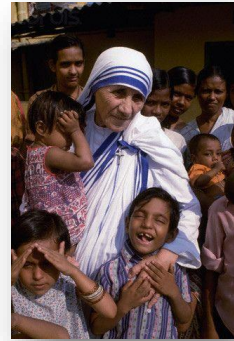
- At the personal and community level we take the responsibility of living synodality, open to listening and accompanying, in the family spirit, to bear witness to the prophecy of communion by growing in co-responsibility, subsidiarity and a planning mentality.
- We live the service of authority, as generative leadership, in the circular, participatory, shared style in the animation, governance and management of educational works.

Indeed, these days of grace and enlightenment have increased the zeal in each of us to render our service in a more generative and synodal style, creatively and yet tenderly, following in the footsteps of our Founders and boosted further by the enthusiasm of Mother Chiara and her Council. We express our sincere gratitude to Mother Chiara and the General Councillors for organizing such a wonderful seminar, to make our presence significant and effective in the mission that is entrusted to us today. May our Blessed Lord reward them for every single sacrifice made with lots of love for a successful animation.

Our heartfelt appreciation to our dear Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, the provincial and the Sisters of Mumbai Province for hosting the Interprovince conference from 16-21 August at Lonavla with their meticulous planning, starting from the participant's journey, stay and the entire event was executed with lots of love with particular attention and care. I gratefully appreciate and congratulate you dear Sisters for the wonderful organization of the seminar on animation and making it a memorable one. Kudos to you Sr. Meenakshi and the Sisters !

Significant feast days

Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata: "Service to Mankind is Service to God". " The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family". " It is not what we do but how much love we put into it". " Peace begins with a smile". " Helping hands are better than praying lips". These are some of the best quotes of St. Mother Teresa, of Kolkata whom we commemorate on 5 September. As we pay our homage to her let us pray that she may help us to live our life meaningfully.



Teachers' Day: On 05 September, in India celebrates Teachers' Day in honour of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. Let us recall some of his quotes and revive our spirit.

- * Teachers should be the best minds in the country
- * The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves
- * Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures
- * Reading a book gives us the habit of solitary reflection and enjoyment
- * Tolerance is the homage which the finite mind pays to the inexhaustibility of the Infinite
- * Knowledge gives us power, love gives us the fullness
- * When we think we know we cease to learn

Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary: On 08 September, the Church celebrates the Birth Day of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed," says St. Augustine. The Blessed Virgin Mary's birthday is important due to her vital role in salvation history. "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God,



in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." Pope Pius IX. In this gift of God, she grew by her cooperation without sinning to the end of her life. Let us ask our Blessed Mother the grace of purity in our life.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September, commemorates the discovery of the True Cross. Legend holds that the relic was found by St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land about 326 AD. The Chapel of St. Helena inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built by the Crusaders in her honour, and below it lies the Chapel of the Finding of the True Cross, in which the cross of Christ's crucifixion was reportedly discovered. On the cross there is victory over death, it is the "tree of life". Let us give our due veneration to the Holy Cross where our salvation lies.

Our Lady of Sorrow: On 15 September we contemplate Traditionally the Seven Sorrows of Mary:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon in Luke 2;
2. The Flight into Egypt in Matthew 2;
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, also in Luke 2;
4. Mary meeting with Jesus at the Fourth station of the Cross.
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and especially John 19;
6. Jesus's Descent from the Cross in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19;
7. The Burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea also in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19;

May the contemplation of the sorrows of our Blessed Mother make us more patient and perseverant in all circumstances of our lives.

St. Mathew the Apostle: As we honour Saint Matthew on 21 of this month, let us wholeheartedly ponder the inestimable value of the Gospel that God has used to transform countless lives.

Feast of the Archangels: On 29 October as we honour the Archangels, let us call upon their intercession, seek their mediation, and trust that they will help us to accomplish the duties we are assigned. Through St. Michael, seek God's protection, through St. Gabriel, seek God's revelation and through Raphael, we seek God's healing.

Feast in the Salesian Family

On 22 September, we commemorate the martyrdom of **Blessed Carmen Moreno and Blessed Amparo Carbonell** who died during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Sr. Carmen (51) and Sister Amparo (43) had the possibility of saving their lives, there was room for them on *Princess Giovanna*, the Italian ship that, sailed from Barcelona to the port of Genoa on 7 August 1936, at the beginning of the civil war. Instead, they decided to stay with Sr. Carmen Xammar, who had just been operated on and was not in a condition to travel.



We also commemorate two daring Salesians **Blessed Joseph Calasanz Marques and Blessed Henry Saiz Aparicio**. Fr. Joseph was the secretary of Fr. Philip Rinaldi and later on he was the provincial of Peru-Bolivia. On his return to Spain, he became superior to the Barcelona-Valencia Province. He was a great-hearted man and a prodigious worker, concerned always for the salvation of his confreres. He was seized, along with other Salesians, while he was presiding in Valencia at the annual retreat.



Fr. Henry Saiz (1889-1936) was the courageous director of the Salesian aspirantate at Carabanchel Alto on the outskirts of Madrid. When hostile military broke into the school on October 2, 1936, he told them promptly, "If you want blood, here I am. But don't hurt the boys."

The youths were let free, while Fr. Saiz and eight other Salesians were taken and slain. Through their great missionary life, we need to learn much if we wish to be true and close followers of our Lord.

Season of Creation: The Season of Creation is a wonderful time to reflect on the beauty of the natural world and our role in nurturing it. As we have stated celebration of the season of creation we can ponder over some inspirational messages to honour this season:

"In every sunrise and sunset, the earth whispers its beauty. Let us listen, cherish, and protect the gift of creation, for it is a reflection of the divine love that surrounds us."

"As the earth transforms with the changing seasons, may we too grow in our care and stewardship of this beautiful planet, recognizing that every action we take is a step toward preserving the harmony of creation."

"The world is a tapestry of wonder, woven with the threads of every living being. This Season of Creation, let us commit to mending and strengthening the fabric of our shared home with respect and gratitude."

"From the smallest seed to the tallest tree, every part of creation has its place and purpose. Embrace the responsibility to nurture and sustain this precious world, for in doing so, we honour the Creator's masterpiece."



"In the rustle of leaves and the song of birds, we find reminders of the interconnectedness of all life". This Season of Creation, let us renew our commitment to living in harmony with nature.

Communications

- ❖ The FMA PCI provincials meeting and Annual Retreat will be held at Auxilium, Kurseong from 01 – 10 September 2024. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. Mathew Cherukattuparambil SDB. Please do keep us in your prayers.
- ❖ In the framework of the preparations for the centenary of the Salesian province of Kolkata, a Mission Seminar will be held at the Salesian College, Sonada from October 9 – 12, 2024. On this occasion, the Salesians will be felicitating the valiant Missionaries of the Salesian Family which include our sisters Sr. Silvina Kujur, Sr. Teresa Xalxo, Sr. Margaret Ghosh and Sr. Angela Kujur from our Province. Sr. Clara Rai, Sr. Elina Minj, Sr. Nayna Agatha Kujur and Sr. Paulina Toppo will participate in the seminar.
- ❖ After many years of study and discernment it was decided to have the FMA PCI Office at Auxilium Convent, Gobra. It was announced in the presence of Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the General Council and the whole assembly present for the Inter Province Conference at Lonavla, Mumbai. Sr. Arockia Mary Selvi Azarias, the NDF National coordinator already visited the centre to do the preliminary work on 29 August 2024.

Gratitude and Appreciation

🌸 I express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Mary Ekka and the community for hosting the Prayer Ministry Meeting on 06 August 2024.

🌸 Sr. Stella Potteparmbil for organizing the first ADMA and FMA Salesian Family Day at the Province level on the 24 and 25 of August 2024 respectively at Auxilium Dum Dum and Auxilium Barasat. A word of thanks to both communities for their collaboration.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- ✠ Sr. Mukta Kerketta at the demise of her cousin brother Mr. Benjamin Toppo (89) on 03 August 2024.
- ✠ Sr. Kanchan Karuna Bara at the passing away of her maternal uncle Mr. Augustine Tirkey on 05 August 2024.
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of Bombay Province at the passing away of Fr John Samala SDB (86) on 12 August 2024 in Mumbai.
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Salesians of New Delhi Province at the demise of Fr. Joseph Kezhakkekara SDB on 22 August 2024.
- ✠ Sr. Rimeka Nongtdu at the passing away of her maternal uncle Mr. Lowis Nongtdu, on 25 August 2024.

Let us continue to pray for the needs of the Province and communities and the good health of all our Sisters and the ailing members of our families.

Dear Sisters,

As we journey through the blessed month of September, celebrating various feasts it is an invitation for us to deepen our commitment to Christ and our dedication in serving others. May the intercession of Our Lady and the Holy Martyrs help us to embrace our mission with courage and compassion, to embody their spirit of service, sacrifice, and unwavering faith in our daily lives to continue to build upon the legacy they have left, fostering a community of love and hope.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial