



Cir. 01

June 2017

My Dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings to you from Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam!

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (Jas. 1:17).

God's gifts are innumerable and none of us will be able to fathom the real reason until we harvest its fruits. I am very glad to meet each one of you through this my first circular. Thank you for the simple trust and confidence that you have in me and in the workings of the Holy Spirit. The FMA Province of INM with 326 Sisters has flourished further and sprouts forth its shoots to establish another Province under the guidance and patronage of Our Lady of Snow. We deem it as an honour and privilege to be blessed with the presence of our beloved Mother General Sr. Yvonne Reungoat in our Province to initiate this unique plan of God.

PRESENCE OF LA MADRE

Our Mother General Yuvone Reungoat arrived in Chennai, on 8th June, 2017. The arrival of our Mother for the Erection of the Province of Our Lady of Snow INT was a sign of new hope and new life. Mother Yvonne was received at the airport by Rev. Sr. Soosai Magnificat and me along with the representatives of the members of the educating community. The Sisters of Fatima Convent Community, the Staff and the School Children affectionately welcomed our Mother General in the traditional Indian style. In the evening Mother Yvonne along with the sisters of the Chennai region participated in the Solemn Eucharistic celebration concelebrated by Rev. Fr. John Bosco SDB and Fr. Dominic Mathews SDB, Vice Provincial and Provincial Secretary respectively of the Salesian Province of Chennai - INM. We implored God's abiding presence and assistance for the historical events in the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle INM and the FMA Provinces of India.

The Erection of the New Province of Trichy, Our Lady of Snow INT and the Installation of the first Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret were held on 10th June, 2017 at Sacred Heart Novitiate - Dhivyadhanam, Manikandam Trichy, during the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rt. Rev. Dr. Antony Devotta DD., Bishop of Trichy. The birth of the new Province is a sign of the great expanse of God's mission accomplished through every FMA in the Indian soil incarnating the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello.

I was privileged to be installed by our Mother General as the new Provincial of the Mother Province of Chennai - INM on 12th June, 2017 at Kodambakkam, Chennai. The solemn concelebrated Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Soundararaju Periyannayagam SDB, DD, Bishop of Vellore. The gracious presence of the Bishop, the joyous participation of

the priests, religious, members of the Salesian family and the educating community added grace, jubilation and vitality to this great historical event. We also had the joy of releasing the book "*Finding God in Illness and Care Giving*" the doctoral thesis of our dear Sr. Devadoss Margaret. We congratulate and encourage her to continue the commendable intellectual contribution.

I thank God for His blessings and assurance experienced on this special day. The encounters of our Mother General with the sisters, animators, and council members of the Province were moments of God's abundant grace and occasions to experience and live the Salesian family spirit. These precious moments of our encounter with our Mother provided opportunities to enter into mutual dialogue, attentive listening assuring her loving accompaniment in the growth of our Provinces and the wellbeing of every sister. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our beloved Mother General for her loving presence with us on this auspicious day as the visit of the major superior is a sign of God's grace to the community and the Province.

The birth, the expansion and growth of our provinces in India is a unique sign of God's immense love for us and our Blessed Mother's maternal presence amidst us. It is a call to strengthen our fidelity to God, an occasion to revive the Salesian charism, a grace to strengthen the community communion, and a task to work together with greater zeal and enthusiasm for the spread of God's kingdom. It is an urgent invitation to make all our institutions as loving portals and homes that are to be opened to all especially the poor children, the marginalized youth and women. Let us commit ourselves to bring those in the periphery to the centre by becoming the signs and bearers of God's infinite love and mercy.

I raise my heart in gratitude for the abundant blessings bestowed on our Provinces both Trichy and Chennai. We have to be immensely grateful to our former leaders and great missionaries with whom we had the privilege of living in the community and in the Provinces.

MILLION THANKS

I express my gratitude to Rev. Sr. Soosai Magnificat for the tireless service offered to our provinces together with her able councillors during her tenure as the Provincial of Chennai. God had been so benevolent to us through her leadership to disseminate effectively the beautiful Salesian charism in the various places for the deserving and the neediest. She has spent her energy for the best of the educative mission, which God deigned to bring into reality at various places in the yesteryears. She has led the Province with ease and in an unassuming manner with her indomitable spirit despite various setbacks that she had to face. There are lots of great things God has accomplished through her responsibility and one such is manifested to us in the multiplication of our Province in Tamil Nadu. God's works are varied and we humbly bow down before His will. On behalf of our Province I extend my heartfelt thanks to her and wish her good health and wonderful mission in the years to come.

I would like to record a note of thanks to all those who contributed for the success of the installation ceremony.

I owe my wholehearted thanks to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora the Vice Provincial, and the Animator of Fatima Convent and the sisters of the community for the planning and execution of the day's celebration. I am grateful in a very special way to the Provincial Councillors for the support, dedication, team work and untiring efforts which are something marvelous.

I appreciate and thank Sr. Kulandaisamy Lourdummy and the sisters of the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, Sr. Gaspar Celine and the sisters of the community of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, Sr. Devadoss Margaret and the sisters of the community of Kingsford, Chennai and all of you my dear sisters who animated the different prayer moments, the colourful cultural events and came up with a melodious song with a great sense of joy and belonging.

I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. John Bosco SDB and Rev. Fr. Agilan Sarparasadam SDB, the Vice Provincials of INM and INT, all the Salesians and the Diocesan Priests, Sisters from various congregations, Salesian cooperators, Past pupils, VIDES Members, Parents, and all well-wishers for their encouraging presence and prayers which ensure better collaboration in our mission.

I render my special thanks to all our young people along with the teaching and non-teaching staff who made the day a meaningful and joyous one.

COMMUNICATIONS

✚ **New Provincial Team**

I am happy to announce the new Team members of our Province who will be animating the different sectors of our Province. I thank them for their generosity in accepting this important mission with enthusiasm and commitment.

General Co-ordinator	- Sr. Alexander Amali
Formation	- Sr. Kanickaraj M. Tamizharasi
Youth Pastoral	- Sr. Alexander Amali
	- Sr. Tharcus Sagaya Mary
	- Mrs. Carolin & Mrs. Amutha
Catechetics	- Sr. Chinnappan Gracy Fatima
	- Sr. Francis Jeyamani
Academic Coordinator	- Sr. Anthonyraj Christina
Educating Community	- Sr. Salas Silviya & Mrs. Shoba
Social Communication	- Sr. Vedanayagam Catherine Diji
Human Rights Education	- Sr. Dharmalingam Jeyaseeli
Young at risk, Non Formal & Women Groups	- Sr. Mudiappaswamy Nirmala
	- Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila & Mrs. Brittilla
Salesian Co-operators	- Sr. James Glorina Rita & Mrs. Valery Patrick
Past Pupils	- Sr. Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli & Mrs. Victoria
VIDES	- Sr. Francis Amala & Miss. Chithra
Mission Ad / Inter gentes & Social Development	- Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila

The Provincial Councillors who will be guiding different areas of animation are:

Formation	- Sr. Kanickaraj M. Tamizharasi
Youth Ministry	- Sr. Gaspar Celine
Social Communication & Educating Community	- Sr. Anthonyraj Christina
Salesian Family	- Sr. Devadoss Margaret
Social Ministry	- Sr. Samala Rayappan Elisa

Triennial Evaluation 2018

Mother General and her council have sent the guidelines for the preparation and realisation of the triennial verification in 2018. As Mother General in her circular 967 states, "At the third year since the celebration of GC XXIII we are called to pause personally, as local community, Province and Inter Provincial level to reflect on the journey taken and to progress toward the future with renewed missionary zeal". Hence we will start this significant process of evaluation with commitment and enthusiasm personally and in the community. I also invite you to involve the Educating Community Members in this process.

Timeline for the Community level Evaluation

Month	To be evaluated	Submission of report
June	Personal study of Acts GC XXIII	---
July	Question 1 Ref. Acts XXIII no. 54 - 66	On or before 24 th July
August	Question 2 Acts GC XXIII no. 67-74	On or before 24 th August
September	Questions 3 & 4	On or before 24 th Septemer

To Read personally and as a Community:

Mother General's Circular No.967, Guidelines for the preparatory phase and the realization of Triennial Evaluation 2018, Preparatory document of the synod of Bishops: "Young people, the Faith and Vocational Discernment".

Initial meet with Provincial Councillors, Animators and Team Members

I had the joy of meeting all the animators, together with the Provincial Councillors and Team members in view of initiating the process of the forthcoming Triennial Evaluation 2018 on 17th June 2017 at St. Mary's Convent, Vellore. I thank Sr. Anthonyraj Christina and the sisters of the community of St. Mary's, Vellore for their warm welcome and wonderful arrangements for the meeting within a short notice. The participants suggested various modalities to actualize the Triennial Evaluation in the local communities along with the Educating Community members. It was indeed a beautiful experience of family spirit. I thank them also for voicing out the priorities and areas of concern of our Province today. One of the main priorities is to work ardently for the vocation promotion. I kindly recommend that every community discerns the possible means of vocation promotion, for example by visiting the Parishes and families in your neighbourhood.

NDF-Workshop

The National Development Forum will be conducting a Workshop for the formulation of the FMA-INDIA Social policy, which will be held at Yercaud from 29th June to 1st July 2017. Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila, Sr. Mudiappaswamy Nirmala and Sr. Lourdusamy

Jebamani will be participating in the workshop. I wish them a fruitful experience and mission.

✚ **Congratulations and prayerful wishes**

- * To Sr. Jacob Celine who was installed as the 5th Provincial of Bangalore Province on 31st May 2017.
- * To Sr. Amalanathan Margaret who was installed on 10th June 2017 as the first Provincial of the newly born Trichy Province.

We wish them a fruitful mission of guiding the sisters of the Province in the style of Christ the Good Shepherd following the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. We assure our remembrance in our daily prayers to support them in their special mandate.

✚ **New Provincials' Course**

I will be leaving for Rome on 21st June 2017 for the New Provincials course. I request your prayers and I assure you of my remembrance and prayers in all the holy places during my visit. In my absence kindly refer to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, the Vice Provincial, for any urgent need.

✚ **New Missionary**

We praise and thank the Lord for the gift of our new Missionary Sr. Aruldoss Angelina who will be leaving for Rome in the 2nd week of July 2017. We will have the thanksgiving and farewell Mass at Kodambakkam on 1st July 2017 at 6.30 p.m. I request the sisters of Chennai communities to participate in the Holy Mass to pray and to wish our dear Missionary. May her example spur in all of us too the missionary ardour.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - JUNE & JULY 2017

June

23	-	Media Education for Students, Chennai zone	-	Kodambakkam
24	-	Youth Pastoral - Social Communication		
	-	Mission ad / inter Gentes Coordinators Meet	-	Kodambakkam
27	-	Non-Formal and NCP & Women Coordinators	-	Anmarudai
29 - 01 st July	-	FMA India Social Policy	-	Yercaud
30	-	Media Education for students, Vellore Zone	-	St. Mary's, Vellore

July

07 - 08	-	New Economers' Meet	-	Kodambakkam
08	-	VIDES Meet	-	Arni
09	-	Past Pupils Meet	-	Aux. Home Katpadi
21- 23	-	Candidates Retreat	-	Sacred heart Home

22	-	Human Rights Seminar, Catechetical Seminar & Headmistress Meet	-	St. Mary's Vellore
24	-	Postulants receive the Medal	-	Sacred heart Home
28	-	Media Education for Teachers	-	Arni
29	-	Tri-monthly Recollection - Seniors	-	S.H. Home, MIC, Kodambakkam
30 - 31	-	Provincial Council	-	Kodambakkam

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE

† To our dear Sr. Alexandra Savarimuthu who lost her nephew Mr. Hendry Clarke (67) on 29th May 2017.

† To our dear Sr. Pathinathan Gloria Rani who lost her aunt Mrs. Madalaïammal (79) on 18th June 2017.

We celebrate the feast of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus on 23rd June. The devotion to the Sacred Heart is one of the most widely practiced and well-known Catholic devotions, taking Jesus Christ's physical heart as the representation of his divine love for humanity. The beginnings of devotion toward the love of God as symbolized by the heart of Jesus are found even in the writings of the fathers of the Church, including Origen, Saint Ambrose, Saint Jerome, Saint Augustine of Hippo etc. But it was made popular by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque who was inspired by visions of Jesus to spread this devotion. Let us make good use of the novena practices sent by the Province to prepare ourselves worthily for this great feast and to grow in the love of Jesus.

I wish each one of you and the entire educating community a very happy feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

I also avail this opportunity to wish you all a very happy feast of St. Thomas, the apostle, the patron saint of our Province! May he inspire us to proclaim the word of God courageously and to acknowledge Jesus as our saviour with the joyous utterance "*My Lord and my God!*"

Happy Feast



Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

SR. NIRMALA LAZAR, FMA
Provincial