



**JNM FMA / Pro. Cir. 10**

**April 2018**

**Viva Gesù`**

**My Dearest Sisters,**

**Affectionate greetings from Mazzarello Convent Kodambakkam!**

**The glorious melodies of "Alleluia" resound in our hearts and minds, and I wish each and every one of you the joy and peace of the Risen Christ! Happy Easter!** May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

This month we will reflect on Chapter VII, **INITIAL PROCLAMATION AND SALESIAN CHARISM** from "Initial Proclamation today" by Alfred Maravilla.

**"Enlarge the place of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will inhabit the desolate cities".** (Is. 54: 2-3) In the Bible, the tent is the meeting place of God with His people and a space that is alive with encounters and exchange. Hence it is important that the tent be wide enough to welcome and accommodate everyone. Our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who pitched His tent among us (Jn. 1:14), invites us, as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, to widen our missionary horizons so that initial proclamation becomes the main concern of our lives as consecrated educators and evangelizers.

Don Bosco made people feel that they were not entering a formal institution. They were being welcomed into a family under the guidance of a father whose only desire was their spiritual and material good. In fact, he always meant the oratory to be a **'home'** rather than an institution. In this educational setting, he stirred up in the young a thirst for God. Don Bosco did not differentiate between initial proclamation and catechesis, but, whenever he met a boy, he immediately invited him to a Christian life. He thus integrated catechesis into the lives of his boys. How many conversions were brought about by a few words of his, whispered unexpectedly into a young man's ear while he was having fun. He, who feels loved, loves, and he who is loved gets

everything, especially from the young. This confidence releases a flow as of an electric current between the young and the educators. Hearts open up and make known their needs, and they recognize their faults."

Young Maria Mazzarello prepared her catechism lessons and her counsels with great care. She was convinced that the Christian life of the girls and of the entire family depended on the mother. In fact, the religious education of girls, especially those who were neglected and abandoned, was deeply imprinted on her heart even before she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. The catechetical style of Mother Mazzarello was colloquial. She used a simple and practical pedagogy as regards prayer and relationship with God. Her catechesis was based on the Word of God and focused primarily on the interests of young people and their experience of Jesus. For her, catechesis depended on the entire educative environment. It was not merely a matter of style or method.

Her biographers recall that Maria Domenica introduced dance into the oratory to counteract the effects of the carnivals in the villages. Teaching the girls to dance was something unheard of among the inhabitants of Mornese of that time. She encouraged dancing because she saw it as a way of being happy without offending God. Later, at Don Costamagna's suggestion, she organized theatrical performances to which she invited also the inhabitants of Mornese. The educational style inaugurated in Mornese by Mother Mazzarello and the early FMA was a true mystagogy, the art of leading the young to Christ.

For Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, everything could be an appropriate opportunity to proclaim the Good News of salvation. They gave the maximum importance to the creation of an educational environment. In it, people, activities, and words could stir up in everyone the awareness of the presence of God. This could take place in the oratory, in schools, in homes, in workshops, and even in recreation, in playgrounds, or during outings. The heart of Don Bosco's educational system is the religious dimension. In fact, Don Bosco's love for young people cannot be understood unless it is seen as rooted in his fiery zeal for their integral salvation. In his dream at the age of nine, it was revealed to him for the first time that his vocation was to bring young people to God through persuasion and loving-kindness, showing them **"the beauty of virtue and the ugliness of sin."** However, it was in the Oratory at Valdocco that he himself was able to verify the effects of this educational method. The word in the ear was therefore a way of whispering the Gospel into the young man's heart such that it would trigger in him an interest in knowing Jesus and his Gospel. This is, indeed, a method of realizing initial proclamation provided that whoever uses it is committed to being consistent with the message it proclaims.

SDBs and FMAs seek out young people in the peripheries. They are convinced that, in the midst of their struggles, these young people have a heart open to the Gospel and that, as consecrated educators, they also have **'Someone'** to offer: Jesus Christ. True spiritual conversion leads to a renewal and strengthening of our vocation. Every encounter with them becomes educative and evangelizing. Finally, pastoral conversion means committing our missionary ardour and apostolic courage so that our educative-pastoral work is innervated by initial proclamation and truly becomes a way to bring the Gospel to the young.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Thanks a million!

We know that the World Feast of Gratitude on April 26, 2018, will be celebrated in Asunción, Province of St. Raphael Archangel, Paraguay (PAR). I am certain that we are preparing ourselves for it earnestly. Let our deepest sentiments of gratitude to God for the unique gift of our beloved Mother Yvonne spring forth in our daily prayers for her and for vocations, in concrete gestures of charity and in the accompaniment of young people to discover God's plan for them.

### NEW ANIMATORS

I am happy to communicate to you that our Mother General has approved the nomination of the following animators for the triennium 2018 - 2021.

Sr. Ambrose Arockia Jeyaceli	-	Mary Immaculate Convent - Tiruppattur
Sr. Pathi Margaret	-	Mannivakkam - Chennai

May God and our blessed mother bless and be with you dear Sisters as you assume the service of animation with the spirit faith and optimism !

### Expressions of gratitude

I express my thanks to Sr. Pichai Mary Saroja for her 9 years of committed service that strengthened and renewed the spirit of 'Christ Consciousness' at Mannivakkam - Chennai.

I am grateful to Sr. Gaspar Mary Celine for her spirit of hard work and generosity in animating the sisters and young people for the past 6 years in the community of Mary Immaculate Convent - Tirupattur.

I take this chance to thank Sr. Loudusamy Ugini Fatima and the community of Arni and Sr. Devadoss Margaret and the community of Chetpet - Chennai for organizing the workers' retreat and helping them in their spiritual growth.

### CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES

Affectionate greetings to dear *Sr. Elizabeth George*, the 12<sup>th</sup> Provincial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of *Shillong (INS)*, and *Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal*, the 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial of the Mater Ecclesiae Province of *Guwahati (ING)*, who have been nominated by Mother General to lead the FMA provinces of the north east India for the next six years. May the Lord bless and accompany them in their mission of guiding and leading the provinces and the Sisters towards new horizons.

### Preparation for Final Commitment

The II Phase of the II Novitiate will be held at Amala Anjali - Yellagiri Hills. We accompany our dear sisters with special prayers that this intense preparation towards their final commitment may help them to have a deeper experience of the love of God. Sr. Arockiaswami Maria Kalyani will be their facilitator during this period.

### Special Coaching in English

There will be special English coaching classes for the vocationable girls (XII Std. and above) from April 13 - May 6, 2018 at Auxilium Home- Katpadi. They will eventually participate also in the

vocation camp from May 7 to 13. I request you to identify and encourage many young girls to participate in the above programme.

## PRAYERFUL CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to

- Sr. Gracy Fatima at the loss of her dear brother-in-law Mr. Paulraj (58) on March 10, 2018.
  - Sr. Sebastian Princy at the passing away of her dear father Mr. Sebastian (87) on March 18, and her eldest brother Mr. Josin (49) on March 27, 2018.
  - Sr. Pazhayattil Annie at the death of her dear brother Mr. Thomas (59) on March 19, 2018.
- May their souls rest in peace!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - APRIL 2018

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| 03 - 10     | - | Annual retreat for Animators, Yercaud                            |
| 10 - 11     | - | Animation & Transmission of Triennial Evaluation for animators   |
| 15 - May 15 | - | Second Novitiate II Phase  |
| 14 - 16     | - | Submission of society accounts and Economers' Meet               |
| 20 - 27     | - | Annual Retreat for Sisters - III, Wellington                     |
| 27          | - | Animation & Transmission of Triennial evaluation for retreatants |

Today, April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonization of Don Bosco. Pope Pius XI canonized him on Easter Sunday, 01 April 1934 when he was given the title of "Father and Teacher of Youth". In his canonization address, the Pope recalled that Don Bosco was "a man who was attentive to everything that happened around him and yet at the same time could be said not to be concerned about anything, his thoughts being elsewhere. And it was really so: he was elsewhere, he was with God." What is interesting about Don Bosco's canonization is that he is perhaps the only saint canonized on Easter Sunday. It associates him with the glory of the Risen Christ.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy. Since 2001, the designated title, "Divine Mercy Sunday", expands the theological significance of the Octave of Easter and deepens its meaning. We see this feast as the convergence of all the mysteries and graces of Holy Week and Easter Week.

The encounter of the Risen Lord with His disciple focuses our attention on the gesture of Jesus who transmits to the fearful and astonished disciples, the mission of being ministers of Divine Mercy. Jesus entrusted to them the gift of "forgiving sins." (Jn. 20: 22-23). We are called to be Easter people sharing our love, peace and forgiveness. Let us be open to God's tender mercies that we might proclaim with the joy of Easter discovery, and with the wonder of St. Thomas: "My Lord and my God".

I wish you a very happy feast of Divine Mercy and a joyful Easter season! *May you feel the presence of the Risen Christ every moment and share with others the joy and mercy that He gives!*

Yours affectionately,

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA**

**Provincial**





---

**PROGRAMME OF THE PROVINCIAL  
APRIL 2018**

---



- 01 - Provincial Office**
- 02 - Meeting the II Novitiate sisters**
- 03 - 11 - Annual Retreat II & Animation, Yercaud**
- 13 - 18 - Provincial office**
- 19 - Journey**
- 20 - 27 - Annual Retreat III & Animation, Wellington**
- 29 - 30 - Provincial Council - Kodambakkam**

**MAY 2018**

- 01 - 02 - Provincial Office**
- 03 - 10 - Annual Retreat IV and Animation, Yercaud**
- 11 - Meeting the II Novitiate Sisters, Yellagiri Hills**
- 12 - 13 - Vocation Camp, Katpadi**
- 14 - 21 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam**
- 22 - 24 - Renewals and First Profession, Tiruchy**
- 26 - Perpetual Profession, Vellore**
- 27 - Provincial Council, Vellore**
- 28 - 31 - Renewals and First Profession,  
Negombo - Sri Lanka**