



**JNM FMA / Pro. Cir. 16**

**October 2018**

**Viva Gesù!**

**My Dearest Sisters,**

**Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!**

***“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...” - Ecclesiastes 12:1***

We are almost at the threshold of the 15<sup>th</sup> Synod of Bishops on the theme “Young People, the faith and Vocational Discernment” which is to be held in Rome from 3 - 28 October 2018. This unique synod is a clarion call of the Roman Pontiff to the Church and to all of us, as educators of youth, to journey with young people of today accompanying them in their vocational discernment. The young people need our attention, recognition, appreciation, accompaniment and animation. Realizing this need of the young people *“the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today’s world. As in the days of Samuel (1Sam 3:1-21) and Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4-10), young people know how to discern the signs of our times, indicated by the Spirit”* says Pope Francis in the Preparatory Document.

The Synod’s primary aim is to make the whole Church aware of her important task of accompanying every young person towards the joy of love; secondly by taking the mission seriously, the Church herself will be able to reacquire a renewed youthful dynamism; thirdly, it is also important for the Church to take this opportunity to carry out the vocational discernment, so as to rediscover how she can best respond today to the call, to be the soul, light, salt and leaven of our world. (Card. Lorenzo Baldisseri at the presentation of the *Instrumentum Laboris* of the Synod of Bishops 2018).

The theme of the synod is so much in harmony with our Charism in favour of young people, especially the poorest and most at risk. In this regard, I invite you dear sisters to deepen the study of the Youth Ministry Series n. 14 “With the young people towards the Synod: The Pre-Synodal Meeting challenges us as Educating Communities”, offered by the Youth Ministry Sector - Rome, to renew our commitment for the protection of children, adolescents and youth. I also recommend you to pray as a community the *“Prayer for the Synod”* during the days of the Synod. “We believe that holiness is the most attractive face of the Church and before we suggest it to young people, we are called to experience it as witnesses, thus becoming a *“likeable”* community, as the Acts of the Apostles shows us. Accompanying young people on the ways of holiness becomes relevant only if we are consistent in the first place” (*Instrumentum Laboris* of the Synod of Bishops, pg.165).

Let us continue to reflect **on holiness as a process of turning to Jesus’ Words and His way of teaching the Truth**. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives. Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes (cf. *Mt 5:3-12; Lk 6:20-23*). A Christian’s identity card is the Beatitudes. The word *“happy”* or *“blessed”* means *“holy”*. It expresses that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness and can be called holy

(Cf. GE. 63-64). Pope Francis says that we can only practise the Beatitudes if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency and our pride. It takes courage to go against the flow, against the worldly way of living. Adhering to the voice of the Roman Pontiff, let us allow ***Jesus' words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live.*** This calls for transformation through encounter. Pope Benedict XVI in *Deus Caritas Est* affirms, "being Christian is an encounter with an event, or with a Person, who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction' (Cf. *GC XXIII*, no.55). In our religious profession we express our fidelity to God in these words: "In response to your love, I bind myself to live the Beatitudes of the Kingdom radically, in communion with my Sisters, proclaiming Christ to young people according to the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello" (*Con. Art.10*).

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"***

We need to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Jesus calls blessed are those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness. St. Ignatius of Loyola spoke of 'holy indifference' to worldly things in order to attain true interior freedom (Cf. GE. 65-69). It means ***we need to live a plain and austere life like the poor and ultimately to configure ourselves to Jesus who, though rich, "made himself poor"*** (2 *Cor.* 8:9). Mother Mazzarello expresses her unction in this regard with these words: "I pray that you may really clothe yourselves in the Spirit of our good Jesus" (*Maria Domenica Mazzarello L.26,4*).

***"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth"***

We live in a world where pride and vanity reign, where each person thinks he or she has the right to dominate others. But Jesus proposes a different way of doing things: the way of meekness. The Sovereign Pontiff says that if we are constantly upset and impatient with others, we will end up drained and weary. But if we regard the faults and limitations of others with tenderness and meekness, without an air of superiority, we can actually help them and ***stop wasting our energy on useless complaining.*** In fact, St. Thérèse of Lisieux tells us that "perfect charity consists in putting up with others' mistakes and not being scandalized by their faults". St. Paul says that even our enemies too are to be treated "with meekness" (2 *Tim* 2:25). Like the *anawim* let us put our trust in the Lord conscious of our interior poverty that we may enjoy the fullness of peace. For to be holy is to be meek and humble! (Cf. GE. 71-74).

Don Bosco chose St. Francis of Sales, the doctor of love, as patron of the Salesian Congregation and of the FMA Institute so that, 'he might obtain for us from God the grace of being able ***to imitate him in his extraordinary meekness and in winning souls***' (*Memoirs of the Oratory Pg.217; Rooted in the Covenant Pg.30*). Dear Sisters, let us remember the Article 22 of our Constitutions that says, "Placing her trust in God alone she will accept her own limitations and those of others with serenity". Can we make our communities a place where meekness reigns? Can we stop wasting our energy on useless complaining?

One Sunday, Don Bosco spoke about becoming a saint, stressing three points which made a deep impression on Dominic Savio's receptive soul: it is God's will that we become saints; it is quite easy to do so; there is a great reward in heaven for one who becomes a saint. Dominic later told Don Bosco: "I feel a deep yearning, an earnest need, to become a saint. I never knew it could be so easy, but now I see that one can be happy and holy too, I definitely want to become a saint". Can we then resolve, dear Sisters, to make progress in the path of holiness following the example of our Saints, living the beatitudes of the Kingdom radically in our daily lives?

## SAINTS OF THE MONTH

01	-	St. Theresa of Child Jesus
02	-	Guardian Angels
04	-	St. Francis of Assisi
05	-	St. Faustina, Bl. Albert Marvelli
13	-	Bl. Alessadrina da Costa
15	-	St. Teresa of Avila
16	-	Bl. Augustine Thevaraparambil
18	-	St. Luke, the Evangelist
22	-	St. John Paul II
29	-	Bl. Michael Rua

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### FMA India Provincials' Meet

The FMA India Provincials meeting was held on 31 August at Auxilium Outreach Centre, Bellefonte, Shillong under the guidance of Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, our Visiting Councillor from Rome. The Provincials shared the report of their respective Provinces regarding the Governance and Animation of the Institute and in particular the Profile of the Visiting Councillor as suggested by our Mother General and her Council. The letter of Mother General, requesting the Indian provinces to share the personnel and financial resources for the mission at Sri Lanka and Nepal was presented to the assembly. We have yet to make final decisions through a process of discernment.

I express my sincere thanks to Sr. Isabella Suja, the Provincial of Shillong and Sr. Gemima and her Community for their loving hospitality during our stay in Shillong.

### Conference of the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family

The conference of Major Superiors of the Salesian Family was held at SA Siloam, Shillong from 1-2 September 2018. The participants of the meet were Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB, the General Councillor for south Asia, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil FMA, the Visiting General Councillor, Founder of the congregation of Disciples, Superior General of SMA, Vice Provincials of MSMHC congregation, SDB and FMA Provincials of India and the National and Regional delegates of the Salesian Family. This coming together of 30 participants was to 'move ahead with one vision and mission' with the Salesian Charism. It was a good occasion to reflect on forging ahead with the activities and other proposals that focus on working together as a Salesian Family on common issues.

### Million thanks!

The visit of Sr. Alaide Deretti to Sri Lanka from 15 - 23 September was indeed the days of abundant blessings of God, discernment and apostolic fruitfulness. On September 16 Sr. Alaide met all the sisters, the Animators and Juniors in their groups and animated them regarding the missionary spirit of our Institute infusing in them the zeal for missionary *ad gentes*. She dialogued with the animators and junior sisters regarding the resources and challenges in prayer life, community living and the apostolic mission. On September 17 she spent time with the community of Negombo meeting them in different groups starting with the Contact Period girls, Apostolic school girls, Aspirants and the Community sisters. On the following days she visited the other communities and held meeting with the sisters, children and girls. She shared the message of

God's love paying particular attention to the future perspectives of our Mission. She made herself available to meet all the sisters personally in their communities. On September 23 she had a final meeting with me and left for Rome on the same evening with a great sense of contentment and clear vision of Sri Lanka mission.

During Sr. Alaide's visit at Negombo, we received the long-awaited good news from our Mother General that we can begin the Postulancy at Negombo – Sri Lanka on 7 October this year. Sr. Alaide communicated this news to the communities of Sri Lanka and to the 4 aspirants who were overjoyed on hearing this. The young candidates rushed immediately to the chapel and praised God by intoning spontaneously the hymn "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good...". I am glad to communicate to you that the aspirants Anushiya, Liyana, Nisobana and Madushika will be receiving the Postulant's medal on 7 October at Negombo. Let us continue to accompany these young candidates with our prayers. We await with hope for many more surprises and future action plans from our Mother General for the growth of the mission in Sri Lanka.

My sincere thanks to our dearest Sr. Alaide for her simplicity, dynamic and motherly presence and above all for her everlasting missionary zeal with which she set the hearts of sisters on fire to work for the poor and marginalized children and youth of Sri Lanka with a broad and optimistic vision for the mission. I am indeed glad to have journeyed together with her to all the communities, which enriched and enabled me to see the reality with a renewed perspective.

### **Evaluation and Re-formulation of Formation - Philippines**

I was happy to attend the meeting for the Provincials, which was held at Sam Phran, Thailand from 26 - 27 September intended for those provinces whose novices are undergoing formation in Philippines. The general objective of this meeting was to reflect on the general criteria and the formative journey of the international / interprovincial Novitiate in Philippines in which our Sri Lankan novices are undergoing their formation. I thank Sr. Rebozo Nieves, the General Councillor for Formation and Sr. Fisichella Maria from the Formation Sector Rome, who facilitated us to reflect on the value and importance of the intercultural formation. I am grateful to Rev. Sr. Nipha Agnese Rangabpit, the Provincial of Thailand, Superior and Sisters of the community of Sam Phran for their warm welcome and sisterly care.

### **Hearty Welcome!**

We are happy to welcome Sr. Miranda Maria Luisa, General Councillor for the Salesian Family, Sr. Leslye Sandigo, World Delegate of Salesian Cooperators and ADMA, and Sr. Gabriela Patino, World Delegate for Past Pupils Association, Rome who will be visiting our Province from 15- 17 October and to animate the Salesian Family FMA PCI Meet from 19 - 22 October at Kodambakkam. The theme of the meet is "Salesian Family: Dream - Resource - Challenge". We wish them a happy stay with us and a fruitful experience in our Province.

### **Blessing of the Building**

Let us praise and thank the Lord along with Sr. Putti Mary and the entire educating community of Jawadhi Hills at the completion of the Matriculation School building which will be blessed on 24 October by Most Rev. Dr. Soundararaju SDB, D.D., Bishop of Vellore. May this institution continue to educate many under-privileged children and youth.

## SINCERE THANKS

Sincere thanks and appreciation to the communities that hosted various animation programs and meetings and the coordinators who animated them during the month of September:

- To Sr. Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham and the community of Yercaud for holding the counselling course for 38 Teachers from 2- 4 September and the Workshop on New Testament Spirituality for 40 sisters of our Province on 8 and 9 September. I thank heartily Sr.Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi and Sr. Alphonse Isabella, Sr.Devadoss Margaret and Fr.Maria Arul Raja SJ for their creative animation.
- To Sr. Pathi Margaret and the community of Mannivakkam for the Ashram Experience offered to our aspirants from 10 -24 September, and for the preparation of the venue for the National Level Training on Social Development Goals conducted by Sr. Alphonse Isabella from September 16 -18, 2018.
- To Sr. Mariadoss Amala and the community of Auxilium Home and Sr. Mudiappa-swamy Nirmala for the animation programme on 15 September for the Sisters in charge of the Boarding and Coordinators of Non Formal sectors.
- To Sr. Fernando Mary Ann and the community of Negombo for the Animators, Juniors and the sisters' Meet with Sr. Alaide Deretti on 16 September and to Sr. Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi for the workshop on NLP for the sisters of Sri Lanka on 15 September.
- To Sr. Devaraj Clara and the community of Michaelpuram for the Economers Meet from 17 - 18 September. Congratulations to Sr. Puliyani Lucy and the resource persons Sr.Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham, Sr.Rayappan Leema Rose and Sr. Rayappan Samala Elisa.
- To Sr. Bathalapalli Irudaya Mary and the sisters of Anmarudai for the Guide Captains and Flock Leaders Basic Training for sisters and teachers from 17- 23 September and for the Media Animation for Non-Formal Students and Children's Parliament members on 27 September. Sincere appreciation to Sr. Antonyraj Christina and her team, Sr. Solomon Kalai Gnani and Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila for animating the above meetings.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Sr. Mariadoss Amala, Sr.Madalaimuthu Lidwin and Sr. Salas Silvia attended the National Educational Conference of Don Bosco Schools (NECDBS) India for Principals and Headmistresses from 28 September to 1 October at SRM University, Chennai.
- Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, Sr. Anthonyraj Christina and Sr. Mariadoss Amala will be attending the Leadership Training for School Cabinet at Universal Solidarity Movement - Indore from 25 October - 1 November 2018.
- Sr. Alphonse Mary J. Isabella, Sr. Kanikairaj Shermila and Sr. Mahimainathan Sathiyavani will participate in the Second Intensive Training of Trainers Programme and Exposure visit by Miracle India Foundation from 29 October to 2 November 2018 at Mannivakkam, Chennai.

## HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

We express our deep condolences and offer prayers to those who lost their dear ones during these days:

- To Rev. Fr. Jose Mathew and the Province of New Delhi at the passing away of Fr. Brian Diamond SDB (85) on 16 September 2018.
- To Rev. Fr. Paul Olphindro and the Confreres of Shillong Province at the demise of Fr. Thekkekandam Thomas on 17 September 2018.
- To Rev. Sr. Jacob Celine and the Province of Bangalore at the sudden demise of Sr. Gracy Mathai (53) on 23 September 2018.
- To the Postulant Delcy who lost her elder brother Master Jackson (24) on 14 September 2018.

### UPCOMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 2018

- 04 - 06 : Retreat for Aspirants, Negombo  
 07 : Postulant's Medal receiving Ceremony, Negombo  
 13 : Human Rights Education for Students and Teachers, Chetpet  
 15 - 18 : Visit of Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda and her Team to our Province  
 19 - 22 : Salesian Family FMA PCI Meet, Kodambakkam  
 23 - 25 : Batch Meet I (Sisters 2001- 2004), Yercaud  
 26 - 28 : Batch Meet II (Sisters 2005- 2011), Yercaud  
 30 : Half Yearly Account Submission, Kodambakkam

The Month of October is dedicated to our Lady of Rosary and Missionary Animation. On 7 October we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The feast was known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory," in remembrance of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Naval victory for Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe. Let us continue use this powerful weapon, the holy rosary, to win the battle between the tendency towards mediocre life of comfort and life of holiness. We shall offer special prayers for all the missionaries especially our dear missionary sisters who are working in different parts of the world. May this special month rekindle in us the fire of *da mihi animas* to live as missionaries of hope and joy - *inter gentes* and to make a decisive choice to be missionaries - *ad gentes*.

Wishing you a very fervent month of Rosary and Mission in the company of Mary, the first missionary of Jesus!

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA**  
**Provincial**



**Happy Feast**

## ITINERARY OF THE PROVINCIAL



OCTOBER 2018

- 02 - **Recollection**
- 03 - 05 - **Provincial Office**
- 06 - **Journey to Sri Lanka**
- 07 - **Postulants' Medal Receiving Ceremony, Negombo**
- 08 - **Returning from Sri Lanka**
- 09 - 10 - **Arrival of Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, Kodambakkam**
- 11 - 12 - **Provincial Council**
- 13 - 14 - **Provincial Office**
- 15 - 17 - **Visit of Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda and her Team to our Province**
- 18 - **Provincial Office**
- 19 - 23 - **Salesian Family FMA PCI Meet, Kodambakkam**
- 24 - **Jawadhi Hills**
  
- 25 - 30 - **Auxilium College – Provincial Team Visit**
- 31 - **Provincial Office**

