



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
S. Thomas Apostle Province - INM
Madras - India



Provincial Circular

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

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August 2019

Viva Gesù!

“Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you” (Jer.1:6 - 8)

My Dearest Sisters,

Warm and affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

I wish you a very happy feast of the foundation day of our FMA Institute and our Lady of Snow on the 5 August! It was on this memorable day in 1872, with the religious profession of the first group of 11 young girls, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was born in Mornese. It is a day of gratitude, fidelity, joy and of hope in the certainty of being guided by the fidelity of God. It is an opportunity to return to our evangelical and charismatic sources, in a very special way this year, as we begin the three years of preparation for the significant event of the 150th year of the foundation of our congregation. As Mother General and the Sisters of the Council have said in their joint circular N.989, on 5 August, from the room of Mother Mazzarello at Mornese, *La Madre* will reach out to the whole Institute by officially opening the celebratory triennium of the 150 years. Let us live this great event with joy and wonder, recalling with gratitude our glorious history and renewing our commitment to being with and for the young people, bearing witness to a joyful fidelity that can awaken in them questions on the meaning and purpose of life.

This month I invite you to have a closer look at the Sacred Scriptures to see what they tell us about young people, in particular, the Old Testament, with the eyes and heart of our beloved Pope Francis as expressed in Chapter 1 of his Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit (CV)*. This chapter answers the question: **“What does the Word of God have to say about young people”**, in the Old Testament and in the New Testament? Holy Father takes the examples of several young persons; both male and female called and commissioned by God, and from their life stories draws significant lessons for the young people. The basic concern is **God’s dealing with young people and how they responded to him**.

The Roman Pontiff points out that “in an age when young people were not highly regarded, some texts show that God sees them differently.” God showed **Joseph**, the most loved son of his father Israel, “great things in dreams and when about twenty years old he outshone all his brothers in important affairs”. (CV6) He was appointed as the chief administrator of Egypt and when the famine began and the people started to cry to Pharaoh for food, he told them, “Go to Joseph and do what he tells you.” (Gen. 41:56) Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain not only to the Egyptians but to all the neighbouring countries including Canaan. He became a great **sign of the providence** of the living and loving God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. **Gideon** displayed the **frankness of young people** who ask questions even about the affirmations of religious beliefs which are normally taken for granted. He asked, “But if the Lord is with us, why then have all these things happened to us?” (Jud. 6:13). And yet God chose him and sent him, “Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel” (Jud. 6:14). “The young boy **Samuel** helped by the advice of an adult Eli”, says Pope Francis, “opened his heart to the call of God saying, “Speak, Lord for your servant is listening” (1Sam. 3:9 - 10).

He becomes a great model of *vocational discernment*. The Final Document of the Synod also refers to the call of Samuel saying, “the account of the call of Samuel enables us to gather together the fundamental elements of discernment: listening and recognition of the divine initiative, a personal experience, gradual growth in understanding, patient and respectful accompaniment of the mystery as it unfolds, and a mission to the community.” (FD 77). As a man of God, deeply human and deeply divine, Don Bosco was able to ‘look beyond a boy’ at every young person he encountered in his life: in a notorious captain Michael Magone, a good leader, in a vulnerable little lad Dominic Savio, a potential for a great saint etc... Are we able to look at our young people as persons capable of being significant instruments of God’s goodness, providence, guidance and power recognizing the wealth of resources in them?

When the Lord chose **Saul** as king, he was still a youth (1Sam. 9:2). God’s choice of **David** as the future king also came when he was still a boy. It proves that “the glory of youth is in the heart, more than in physical strength or the impression given to others” (CV 9). **Solomon** was “a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act” (1Kg. 3:7) when he succeeded his father David. In his youthful audacity, he asked God “for wisdom and he devoted himself to his mission” (CV 10). The guidelines for the educational mission of the FMA (GEM) delineates that as educators we are called to educate young people to be active, critical and builders of a society that promotes justice, love, truth and freedom. Do we believe that the power of God can mould numerous young people who are with us to become great stalwarts in creating a just, fraternal and peaceful society? Are we able to look beyond the persons and see the tremendous potentials within them to do great things? Are we prepared to be with the young people of today and to accompany them to reach this goal?

Despite his youth, God called **Jeremiah** to prophesy to people. He was full of fear: “*Ah Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth*”. *But the Lord told him not to say so and added, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you”* (Jer.1:6 - 8). “The devotion of the prophet Jeremiah to his mission, says the Pope”, “shows what can happen when the brashness of youth is joined to the power of God” (CV 10). An **unnamed Jewish servant girl** of the foreign commander Naaman intervened with faith and helped him to be cured of his illness (2 Kg 5:2 - 6). The young **Ruth** showed herself as a model of generosity when she chose to stay with her widowed mother-in-law Naomi in her hard times (Ruth 1:1-18). Pope Francis says, “She also showed boldness in getting ahead in life” (CV 11), so also **Esther and Judith** the courageous women. In a climate marked by women discrimination, St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello and the first Sisters of Mornese, urged by a great educational passion began to work for the integral promotion of young women, especially the poorest. Do we believe in the inner strength embedded within each girl child, young girls and the women entrusted to our care and educate them to empower themselves to be bold and fearless to stand for the values of truth and justice?

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

- 02 - Blessed Augustus Czarторыski SDB
- 05 - Our Lady of Snows / Foundation Day of our Institute
- 06 - Transfiguration of our Lord
- 15 - Assumption of our Lady / Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of Johnny Bosco
- 22 - Queenship of our Lady
- 24 - St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- 26 - Bl. Ceferino Namuncura

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ We are grateful to Sr.Fernando Mary Ann and the community of Negombo and to Sr.Paul M.Mary and the community of Vavuniya for the PC 2019 Preparatory Meet on June 10 & 12 respectively. Heartfelt thanks to Sr.Devadoss Margaret for animating these meetings.
- ✚ Our sincere thanks to Sr.Pathi Margaret and the community of Mannivakkam for the Ashram Experience of the Postulants from 1 to 15 July, and the Life Skill Education to the group of Sisters and lay collaborators of Chennai, Mumbai and Trichy Provinces from July 2 to 14.
- ✚ Our gratitude to Sr.Stanislaus Mary Dora and the community of Kodambakkam for the PC 2019 Preparatory Commission Meet on July 6 & 7, New Animators' Meet on July 10 & 11 and Child Protection Committee Meet on July 20.
- ✚ Millions of thanks to Sr. Goulart Lopes Ivone and Sr. Neli Lolia from Youth Pastoral Sector, Rome, the resource persons of the, FMA PCI Youth Pastoral Meet from 18 to 22 October 2019 for their enriching animation and to Sr.Kunnathu Anna and the community of Auxilium College for their generous hospitality in hosting this meet.
- ✚ We thank Sr.Antonyraj Christina and the community of St.Marys' Vellore, Sr.Ambrose Jayaceli and the community of Mary Immaculate Tiruppattur for the Media Animation meet for students and staff on 5 and 12 July respectively. Congratulations to Sr.Lourdusamy Kalai Gnani, the Media Coordinator of our Province for her efficient organization. We congratulate and thank Sr.Ambrose Jayaceli for organising the Past Pupils' Meet on July 13.
- ✚ Heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Mathew Siriapushpam and the community of Mazzarello Home for Human Rights Education to Staff and students of Tiruppattur zone on July 26. Sincere appreciation to dear Sr. Joseph Victoria the organiser.
- ✚ Expressions of gratitude to Sr.Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi for the Human Rights Education to Staff and students of Vellore zone on July 19 and for the Marialaya and Boarding Mistress' Meet on July 27. Congratulations to Sr.Joseph Victoria, Sr.Mudiappaswamy Nirmala and Sr.Alphonse J.Isabella for their active coordination and animation of the above meetings.
- ✚ We thank Sr.Susairaj Mary Sheila and the community of Kingsford for the VIDES Meet of Chennai zone on July 27. We appreciate Sr. Francis Amala and Sr. Mahimaidass Jaya Sunitha, the VIDES Coordinators for organizing the meet.

ADIEU MOTHER ANTONIA COLOMBO (1935 - 2019)

On the evening of July 1, 2019, we have lost our beloved Mother Antonia Colombo, Superior General Emeritus, a great stalwart of our congregation. She winged her flight to heaven from the House "Mary Help of Christians" of Sant'Ambrogio Olona (Varese) to celebrate Easter eternally. She was born in Lecco on April 12, 1935, professed in Contra di Missaglia (Lecco) on August 6, 1959, in the Lombardian Province of Holy Family- Milan. From 1963 till 1989 she was a professor, to begin with, and then Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium" in Turin first and later in Rome.

She contributed a lot to the development of the Faculty with her sharp intelligence. With her cultural and spiritual richness, she gave a Marian face to our Institute.

In 1989 she was appointed Provincial of the Taranto Province "Suor Teresa Valsé Pantellini" (IME). The following year in the GC XIX she was elected as the Visiting General Councilor and in GC XX of 1996, she was elected as Superior General of the Institute, then re-elected for a second term of six years during GC XXI in 2002. During the long years of her service of authority in the Institute, she particularly emphasized on the culture of life and promoted the dignity of young women. Mother Antonia fostered a great commitment to active citizenship and circular style of animation as conditions for enhancing the resources of each person and as a means to live the witness of communion. Humanizing culture and relationships in the light of the message of Jesus and the Salesian charism was not a mere slogan for Mother Antonia, but a precise commitment that identified her mission as a mother and formative guide. During her last years on earth, she had become "prayer itself", not only because she spent long periods of time in front of the Lord near the tabernacle but because her luminous gaze went beyond where dialogue with God does not undergo variations but is ever more intense and deeper. She used to invite the Sisters to pray with her, the favourite oration: "I want what you want... as you want it when you want it and because you want it". We owe immense gratitude to our dear Mother Antonia for her unique contribution to the Salesian Charism, especially **in Sri Lanka**. As we remember her fondly in the presence of Lord, let us imbibe her spirit of dedication, diligence and her passion for the 'da mihi animas'. **Rest in peace dear Mother Antonia!**

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

Hearty Congratulations and best wishes to our dear Sr. Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam the first Novice formator of Sri Lanka. We thank her for her generous availability for this delicate task and we implore God's blessings upon her as she takes up this new mission on August 5, 2019.

ENTRY INTO NOVITIATE

Our Province has every reason to thank the Lord for His great and marvellous deeds especially in granting us the grace to start a Novitiate in Negombo, Sri Lanka. Our heartiest congratulations to the seven vibrant and fervent Postulants

ANTON BERNARD Liyana	ANTHONIPILLAI Arulmalar
CHRISTOPHER Dionit Nilojana	DAVID Anushiya
NEKCHILAN Maria Nisobana	RATHNAYAKA Madushika Sewwandi and
SANTHIOGU Verginiya	

who will be entering into Novitiate on August 5. The Postulants have already started their retreat on July 28 and are getting ready for this memorable event. Let us accompany them with our sisterly prayers.

GOLDEN AND DIAMOND JUBILEE

We rejoice and celebrate the graciousness and fidelity of God in the lives of our dear Sisters Sr.Rayappan Maria and Sr.Savarimuthu Alexandra, the Diamond Jubilarians, Sr.Peenikaparamban Elizabeth and Sr.Dashwood Hazel, the Golden Jubilarians on August 17, 2019, at Kodambakkam. Let us send ahead our prayers of thanksgiving and intercessions for these our dear sisters. Congratulations to you dear Jubilarians!

FMA PCI 2019

As you know, the FMA PCI Meet 2019 will be held at FMA Outreach, Shillong, from August 20 to 22 on the theme "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn. 2:5); "Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity". Along with me, Sr.Susai Josephine Rani and

Sr.Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the delegates chosen by the Province and the Provincial Council respectively, and Sr.Alphonse Isabella, the NDF Coordinator, will be participating in the meet. Let us pray for the fruitfulness of this FMA India event. We extend a very warm **‘Welcome Home’** to our dear Sr.Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, the Visiting General Councillor to our motherland India to preside over the FMA PCI 2019.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ✚ Sr. Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi will be participating in the Career Guidance Course organized by Sr.Alphonse J.Isabella, the Program Lead, along with Miracle Foundation, from August 1 to 3, 2019 in Asha Nivas, Chennai.
- ✚ Sr. Francis Irudayamary and Sr.Fernando Metilda will be taking part in the one month Missionary course in Shillong followed by a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from September 1 to October 4, 2019. Sr. Pudota Mary Kirubagari and Sr.Sebastian Vimala will be joining them for the Pilgrimage. We wish them a memorable experience of the Lord in the Holy land!

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during the last month:

- ✚ To Sr. Louis Isabel Sirumalar at the sudden demise of her elder brother Mr.William Rathina Raj (46) on July 5.
- ✚ To Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Mathew and confreres of Bangalore province at the sad demise of Fr. Thomas Kizakenellikunnel Sdb (67) on July 7.
- ✚ To Sr. Kurusinkal Alphonsa and the Sisters of Guwahati Province at the demise of Sr.Nunes Victoria Claudia (61) on July 17.
- ✚ To Sr. Rose Ezarath and the Sisters of INC at the passing away of Sr. Cecilia Tamba (58) on July 20.
- ✚ To Sr. Adaikalam Pauline Julie at the demise of her dear mother Mrs. Rani Mary (80) on July 25.
- ✚ To Sr. Francis Giovanna at the sudden passing away of her dear brother Mr.Alphonse (62) on July 31.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY - AUGUST 2019

- 04 - ✚ Sr. Angeleri Maria (1967), the Pioneer
- 06 - ✚ Sr. Xavier Anna (2005)
- 08 - ✚ Sr. Spitalieri Carmela (1938)
- 09 - ✚ Sr. Arockia Maria Teresa (2012)
- 10 - ✚ Sr. Da Roit Cecilia (1981)
- 13 - ✚ Sr. Sylvia Fernandes (2009)
- 15 - ✚ Sr. Ravalico Maria (1980)
- 19 - ✚ Sr. D’Couth Margaret (2007)
- 23 - ✚ Sr. D’Souza Celine (2013)
- 26 - ✚ Sr. Tagliabue Camilla (2004)

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUGUST 2019

- 03 - 04 : Tri-monthly Recollection & Animation of Juniors of INM &INT, Tiruchy
- 03 : Tri-monthly Recollection for senior Sisters, Kodambakkam
- 05 : Entry into the Novitiate, Negombo

- 08 : Animation for the Animators of Sri Lanka, Negombo
- 09 : Election of the community delegate and her substitute to PC 2019
- 10 : Answers to Question No.1 of GC XXIV to be sent to the moderator
- 11 : Quiz on the Acts of the Apostles in the local communities
- 12 : Tri-monthly recollection for the senior Sisters, Sacred Heart Home, Pethanaickanpalayam, and Vavuniya
- 13 : Workshop on Govt. Schemes for Women Cell, Kodambakkam
- 14 : Tri-monthly recollection for senior Sisters, Tirupattur
- 15 : Formators' Meet, Madurai
- 16 : Answers to Question No.2 of GC XXIV to be sent to the moderator
- 17 : Golden & Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Kodambakkam
- 18 : Submission of the duly filled Questionnaire to the moderator
- 19 : Animators' Meet, Kodambakkam
- 20 - 22 : FMA PCI 2019, Shillong
- 22 - 29 : Annual Retreat, Negombo
- 22 : Human Rights Animation for Chennai zone, Chetpet
- 25 : Citizenship Workshop for the Young People of Chennai, Kodambakkam

On August 15, we celebrate with joy the solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother Mary and the 73rd Independence Day of motherland India. At the end of the Constitution on the Church, the Second Vatican Council gives us a very beautiful meditation on Mary Most Holy. "...The immaculate Virgin preserved free from all stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when her earthly life was over, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things" (LG 59). This mystery shows us that God in His infinite goodness and love wills to save the whole human person: body and soul. It reminds us that we are called to serve and glorify God with our whole being, and thus to realize fully the exhortation of Saint Paul: '*Glorify God in your body!*' and we will glorify him forever in heaven.

As we contemplate on this great mystery of the assumption of our Lady, let us pay grateful tributes to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to gain freedom for India giving rise to the dawn of a new beginning. Let us plead to the Lord of life that each and every citizen of India may march ahead with new hope, new zeal and new belief to realize the dream of a new India of peace, justice, fraternity and prosperity.

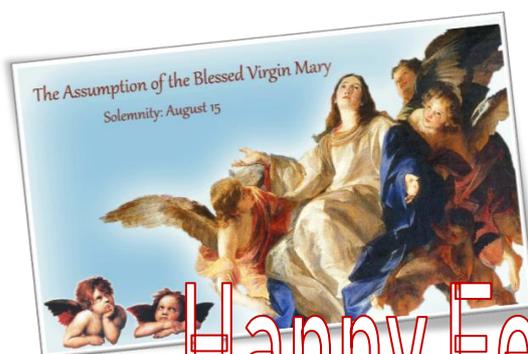
Once again, I wish you all a very happy feast of the Assumption of Our Lady and the celebration of a truly independent India!

Dearty Congratulations to all those who made their commitment to the Lord on August 5!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



Happy Feast!

Itinerary of The Provincial

August 2019

- 01 - 02 : TNPCRI Meet, Tindivanam
03 : Journey to Sri Lanka
04 : Colombo
05 : Entry of the Postulants into the Novitiate, Negombo
: Animators of Sri Lanka Meet, Negombo
06 : Provincial Visit, Thirukovil
07 : Provincial Visit, Urimpirai & Jaffna
08 : Provincial Visit, Vavuniya
09 : Journey to India
10 : Tri-monthly Recollection, Katpadi
11 : Provincial Visit, Auxilium College
12- 13 : Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
14 : Formators' Meet, Madurai
15 : Provincial Visit, Nandambakkam
16 : Provincial Office
17 : Golden and Diamond Jubilee, Kodambakkam
18 : Animators' Meet, Kodambakkam
19 - 23 : FMA PCI 2019, Shillong
24 : Journey to Sri Lanka
25 - 29 : Annual Retreat V, Negombo, Sri Lanka
30 : Provincial Visit, Nochchiyagama
31 : Provincial Visit, Negombo
01 Sep. : Journey to India

