



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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Viva Gesù!

Bless the LORD, O my soul and do not forget all his benefits... who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. - "Ps.103:2-5

My Dearest Sisters,

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

I am happy to convey to you the loving wishes of our Sisters, Novices and Candidates of Sri Lanka from where I have just returned with fresh memories of the persons and the ever-growing mission carried out by our Sisters. 13 of our Sisters made their annual Spiritual Retreat at Negombo from August 22 to 29 preached by Fr. Biji Thomas SDB and they are beaming with zeal to continue their journey with renewed spirit, mind and heart.

This month I would like to reflect with you on ***“what the New Testament tells us about young people”*** in the light of ***Christus vivit*** (***“Christ is alive”***), the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis.

First and foremost the Roman Pontiff presents the qualities of young people. Referring to the younger son of the Lukan parable of the prodigal son the Pope says, ***“Young people are naturally ready to change, to turn back, to get up and learn from life...Jesus praises the young sinner who returned to the right path rather than the elder brother who considered himself faithful but lacked the spirit of love and mercy”*** (CV 12). The Pope continues, ***“a wise young person is open to the future, yet still capable of learning something from the experience of others”*** (CV 16). The rich young man according to the Gospel of Matthew demonstrates youthful openness of spirit which seeks new horizons and great challenges. Drawing insights from the parable of the ten bridesmaids the Pope praises the five wise young women who were ready and waiting, as persons aspiring to beautiful and great things and thus store up a future full of life and interior richness (CV 19). As educators of young people are we capable of finding good and praise-worthy qualities in them and appreciate them?

Secondly, the Pope points out that the Word of God teaches us to treat young people as brothers and sisters. Parents and elders should not provoke their children and discourage them but make them realize that they are meant to dream great things, to seek vast horizons, to aim higher and to offer the best of themselves to build a better world. Jesus insisted, ***“The greatest among you must become like the youngest”*** (Lk. 22:26). Don Bosco, the father and friend of the young had high esteem for his boys and treated them with great respect since he deeply believed that in every young person there is a point accessible for good. In our educative mission do we consider the young people as partners, protagonists of their own formation and capable of transforming the society?

Thirdly the Holy Father draws lessons on youth from the writings of St. Paul: ***“God’s Word asks us to cast out the old leaven that we may be fresh dough”***, ***“to strip ourselves of the old self and to put on a young self*** (1Col. 3:9 - 10). ***“Jesus himself, eternally young, wants to give us hearts that are ever young”*** (CV 13). Hence, he suggests the way to preserve and renew one’s youthfulness: ***“compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving each other”***. One can renew one’s inner vitality, dreams, enthusiasm and optimism of youth by

having a heart capable of loving. As St. Paul says, “above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Col 3:14). The young people need to preserve their youthfulness by accepting the authority of those who are older, respecting the elderly, valuing their wealth of experiences and by being self-controlled. The Vicar of Christ says, “We should never repent of spending our youth being good, opening our heart to the Lord and living differently. None of this takes away from our youth but instead strengthens and renews it: Your youth is renewed like the eagles” (CV17).

Are we open to renew our youthfulness by being at the side of the young people, willing to listen to them and learn from them in order to accompany them in a Salesian way? The Synodal experience of young people with the Head of the Catholic Church during the Synod of Youth 2018 on the theme “Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment” is a great sign of renewal in the Church. Living the ‘Synodal style’, we will be able to lift up the least and the lost from their discouragement and pessimism saying with Jesus, “Young man, I say to you, arise” (Lk.7:14) (CV 20). Yes dear Sisters, let us **‘remain young’** and accompany our young people towards the fullness of life.

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

- 05 - St. Teresa of Calcutta / Teachers’ Day
- 08 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Our Lady of Vailankanni
- 12 - Holy Name of Mary
- 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
- 21 - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 29 - Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

ALL IN THE FAMILY

THANKS A MILLION

The celebration of Diamond and Golden Jubilee of our dear Sisters Sr. Rayappan Maria and Sr. Savarimuthu Alessandra, Sr. Peenikaparamban Elizabeth and Sr. Dashwood Hazel on August 17, 2019, at Kodambakkam was indeed a joyous moment of togetherness for our Province Family as we thanked God along with them for His goodness and fidelity in the lives of these our dear jubilarians. We are grateful to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, the Vice Provincial, for her efficient organization of the day and the Kodambakkam Community Sisters for their hospitality, commitment and sense of belonging which made everyone to feel at home. I extend my thanks to the communities of Our Lady’s, Chetpet, Auxilium College, Vyasarpadi, and Dharmapuri for their creative animation of liturgical moments, to the communities of Pallikonda, Kodambakkam and Mary Immaculate Convent, Tiruppattur for the colourful cultural events. An appreciative note of thanks to our dear Fr. K. M. Jose SDB, the Provincial of Chennai, for his amiable presence and for presiding over the Eucharistic celebration and making it a significant experience for all of us.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Our hearty thanks to Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the Provincial, Trichy, Sr. Cruz Antony Michael and the community of Manikandam, Novitiate for hosting and animating the Juniors Sisters during the Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation on August 3 and 4; Sr. Antonysamy Suganthi and the community of Madurai for the INM - INT Formators’ Meet on August 14, 2019.

- ✚ Our sincere thanks to Sr. Fernando Mary Ann and the community of Negombo for accompanying the seven Postulants for the past two years; organising the annual retreat for them from July 28 to August 4; making the ceremony of Entry into the Novitiate on August 5 into a significant experience, for hosting the animators' meet on the same day, and for hosting the annual retreat of Sisters from August 22 to 29, 2019.
- ✚ We are grateful to the animators of Kodambakkam, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, Pethanaickenpalayam, Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, and Vavuniya communities and the Sisters for facilitating the tri-monthly recollection of the seniors on the 10 and 11 August.
- ✚ Our expressions of gratitude to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the Animators' Meet and Workshop on Government Schemes for Women Cell on August 18, and Citizenship Workshop for the Young People of Chennai on the August 25.
- ✚ Our thanks to Sr. Susairaj Mary Sheila and the community of Chetpet for hosting the Human Rights Animation for Chennai zone on August 22.

FMA PCI 2019

The FMA PCI Meet 2019 held at FMA Outreach, Shillong, from August 20 to 22 was an enriching and unique experience. The animating presence of Sr. Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, the Visiting General Councillor, and the sisterly presence of 30 participants including the seven Provincials, Delegates and the National Coordinators of various sectors during the three days enabled us to experience the motherly solicitude of Mary, the woman of the new vine, and to pay heed to her mandate "*Do whatever He tells you*" (Jn. 2:5). We had the presentation of national-level reports by the National Coordinators of the sectors of Formation, Education, Youth Ministry, Social Communication, Mission ad-inter gentes, Salesian family, Social Development, Youth at Risk, and National Development Forum. Discussions were held on the three-year preparation for the Centenary celebration of FMA Presence in India and National Education Policy. There was a session on "A purview of the way to answer the questions posed in the preparatory document of GC XXIV". An interactive session by Sr. Lucy Rose with participants arrived at the PCI level Proposals for GC XXIV. Each Province also had the opportunity of creatively sharing with FMA India, an event of significance in the Province.

We place on record a note of thanks to our dear Sr. Lucy Rose, the presiding General Councillor, Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the President of PCI and Sr. Ambrose Little Flower, the PCI Secretary, and Sr. George Elizabeth, the Provincial of the hosting INS Province, for their dedication and remarkable contribution for the success of PCI 2019. We sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Happyline, the animator and the community of 'FMA Outreach' - Lurshai' for their generous service and loving hospitality. The minutes of the PCI will be sent to you shortly with the detailed information about all the sharing, discussions and decisions made during the PCI 2019. Let us continue to journey with hope and joy towards creating "Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity".

HEARTY WELCOME!

A hearty welcome to our beloved Rector Major Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, the tenth successor of Don Bosco, who visits INM Province from September 06 to 09, 2019. Our joy is doubled to know that he will be with us at the Provincial House in Kodambakkam for the meeting of the Salesian Family members of Chennai and Pondy region on September 07, from 6.30 to 9.00 p.m. and on 08 September from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at Don Bosco, Katpadi for the Vellore

Region. We welcome him warmly into our midst and wish him pleasant and memorable experience in our homeland. I invite all of you to take part in these meetings conducted in your region along with the members of the Salesian Family.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ✓ Sr. Putti Viagulam, Sr. Sebastian Amalorpavam, Sr. Mariapragasam Reetha and Sr. Chinnappan Rose Mary are attending the AINACS General Body meeting in Mangalore from 29 August to 1 September 2019.
- ✓ The Silver Jubilarians of our Province Sr. Alphonse J. Isabella, Sr. Chinnappan Gracy Fatima, Sr. Mathew Alice, Sr. Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary, Sr. Perianayagam Auxilia and Sr. Vedanayagam Viji along with those of other FMA of Indian Provinces, will be attending the renewal programme at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore from September 2 to 15, 2019. We wish them a happy experience of sharing and spiritual renewal.
- ✓ Sr. Da Silva Servitas will be going to Rome for the 3 months Missionary Animation Course in Salesian University (UPS) Rome from 12 September to 30 December 2019.
- ✓ Sr. Rathinaswamy Regina will be participating in the Third ISS-FMA World Meeting in Medellin, Colombia from 27 - 29 September 2019 on the theme "Networking among the different FMA Higher Education Institutes: Instances and challenges for education today, in the perspective of the Salesian pedagogical humanism".
We wish them happy journey and fruitful experience!

ADIEU DEAR SISTERS!

This beautiful month of August had been a month of great sorrow for us as two of our dear Sisters, Sr. Soosai Maria Theresa and Sr. James Glorina Rita, were welcomed by our Divine Master to paradise within the short span of two weeks. Though we are pained by the loss of these our dear Sisters, we are consoled by the thought that they have fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith and have gone to receive the crown of righteousness from our Lord. I express my gratitude to each one of you and in particular to the communities of Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur and Sacred Heart Convent, Polur, for your continuous support in accompanying them with your prayers, presence and care during the period they were called to unite themselves with our Lord Jesus in His sufferings. I am greatly thankful to the communities of Auxilium College and St. Marys' Vellore, for the harmonious arrangement of funeral moments and the final journey of these our beloved Sisters.

SR. SOOSAI MARIA THERESA who passed away on August 11, 2019, grew up in a large family of 11 children along with the two orphans whom the parents brought up with much love. She imbibed the spirit of generosity from her dear parents. She was an active student, in the school, in the Parish and at home. The Parish activities that she was involved in spurred her on to live her Christian life to the full. From her childhood she was inclined to the religious life, inspired by the witnessing life of many of her family members who were Priests and Religious. After her schooling, Sr. Maria Theresa joined the Aspirantate and continued her formation with great enthusiasm to become a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. Right from her novitiate days, she liked to be called "A PRAYERFUL WOMAN". This aspiration was evident while she lived in different communities, as a teacher in the Primary schools and Higher Secondary Schools, in the Oratory, Boardings, Workrooms, Kitchen and so on. She fulfilled all her duties with prudence and diligence until she was called to offer her pain and daily suffering. "A Sister of few words" was the expression of a Sister when she heard the news of the passing away of this dear Sister. We are

grateful to God for her forty-six years of committed service as a fervent Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. May God reward her for her fruitful life!

At the dawn of August 20, 2019, our dear **SR. JAMES GLORINA RITA** was called to the embrace of Our Lord after a long period of intense suffering. She was an active religious, ardent Sister, zealous Teacher and Headmistress in different Higher Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Institutions and an inspiring Sister in the Province as the Provincial Councillor, General Coordinator and the Provincial Delegate of the Past Pupils. In the communities, she served as an Animator, Vicar, Coordinator of the Educating Community and Youth Pastoral, delegate of the Salesian Co-operators, Past Pupils and VIDES. At the Institute level, Sr. Glorina was the Consultant for the Feminine and Marian Dimension of the Salesian Family Sector and rendered her services at the Generalate, Rome, for three years. The educative method of Don Bosco and the constant presence of the Sisters among the young people which she experienced as an undergraduate student at Auxilium College, Katpadi, inspired her to be an educator in the Don Bosco way as a consecrated religious. She cultivated the spirit of prayer from her childhood under the guidance of her dear parents who appreciated and lived the Christian values of faith, hope and charity. In fact, profound prayer was the powerful weapon she held on to, all through her life to resist temptations and resolve the conflicts. Being the eldest in the family of three children, she developed a sense of responsibility and accountability and was very much vivid as she took up various responsibilities in the Province. When she was diagnosed with cancer in 2015, one could see in her longing for life, a great zeal for the mission of building God's Kingdom. Though she lived with the great hope of a miracle, she bowed her head to God's will when her time came to bid goodbye to the world of the young, the Province and the Congregation. In whatever role the religious obedience placed her, Sr. Glorina proved herself to be an ardent educator after the heart of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello and won the hearts of the young and their educators with her characteristic ways of love and persuasion. Her funeral day proved her motherly tenderness with which she was able to reach out to thousands of people.

May the lives of these two dear Sisters, Sr. Maria Theresa and Sr. Glorina, inspire us to live with a great love for the young people and accompany them like Mary giving Jesus to them. Now that they are in the embrace of God, they will intercede for us and obtain many holy vocations for our Province and the Institute. *May your souls rest in God dear Sisters!*

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ To Sr. Saverimuthu Alessandra at the passing away of her dear sister Mrs. Vimala (89) on August 14.
- ✠ To Sr. Rose Ezareth and the Sisters of Kolkata Province at the passing away of Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel (86) on August 16.
- ✠ To Rev. Fr. K. M Jose and the confreres of Chennai Province at the demise of the senior-most Salesian Rev. Fr. Cedric Bout SDB (102) on August 17.
- ✠ To Sr. Panakezhathan Annie who lost her elder brother Mr. Alexander (82) on August 22.
- ✠ To Sr. Soosey Philo Rani who lost her sister-in-law Mrs. Celine Lawrence (65) on August 24.
- ✠ To Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot and the confreres of Shillong Province at the passing away of Fr. K.J. Joseph (69) on August 25.
- ✠ To Sr. Jacob Celine and the Sisters of INK Province at the loss of Sr. D'Silva Lorenzia (98) on 27 August.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY - SEPTEMBER 2019

- 04 - † Sr. Dal Corso Maria (1986)
- 06 - † Sr. Gullery Elizabeth (1996)
- 12 - † Sr. Borrini Giacomina (1972), Sr. Hale Madue (2009)
- 13 - † Sr. Aranha Judith (2011)
- 19 - † Sr. Stefani Stefanina (1949)
- 23 - † Sr. Marengo Maddalena (1978), Sr. Margaret Yettukuri (2004)

UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2019

- 01- 15 : Ashram Experience for Aspirants, Mannivakkam
Community Experience for Postulants
- 07 : Seminar on Govt. Schemes for Women, Kodambakkam / Anmarudai
- 17 - 19 : Counselling Course for Teachers, Mannivakkam
- 20 - 22 : PC 2019 Commission Meet
- 22 : Review of CCL Retreat - USM
- 25 : Children Parliament for Boarders, Polur
- 26 : Media Animation for Non-Formal children, Erode
- 29 : Youth Citizenship Workshop - 2, Kodambakkam
- 29 - 01Oct. : Life Skill Education, Mannivakkam

On 08 September we celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is an important day in our salvation history. Christ needed a mother! Mary's conception and birth, therefore, are events without which Christ's own birth would have been impossible. As we rejoice at the birth of Mother Mary, a precious gift of God to us and to entire humanity let us strive to give glory to her by living as her authentic daughters and children. Let us pray through the intercession of Our Lady of Vailankanni, the mother of good health, for all our Sisters and dear ones especially those who are sick and for the numerous devotees who seek her maternal help.

As I conclude, let me wish you with a portion of the ancient prayer in honour of Our Lady's Nativity by St. Anselm: ...*Give me strength to praise thee in prayer with all my powers, through the merits of thy most sacred nativity, which for the entire Christian world was a birth of joy, the hope and solace of its life. When thou were born, O most holy Virgin then was the world made light. Happy is thy stock, holy thy root, and blessed thy fruit, for thou alone as a virgin, filled with the Holy Spirit, didst merit to conceive thy God, as a virgin to bear Thy God, as a virgin to bring Him forth, and after His birth to remain a virgin...O holy Mother of God, flowering as the lily, pray to thy sweet Son for me, a wretched sinner. Amen.*

I wish you all a very Happy Feast on 8 September and Happy Teachers' Day!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial



Itinerary of the Provincial

September 2019

- 01 : Journey back to Chennai
- 02 : Recollection, Kodambakkam
- 03 - 04 : Provincial office, Kodambakkam
- 05 - 06 : Vyasarpadi - Chennai, PV
- 07 : Salesian Family Meet, Kodambakkam
- 08 : Salesian Family Meet, Katpadi
- 08 - 10 : Auxilium Home - Katpadi, PV
- 11 - 13 : St. Mary's - Vellore, PV
- 14 - 15 : Provincial Council, Tirupattur
- 16 - 18 : Chetpet - Chennai, PV
- 19 : Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 20 - 22 : Consolidation work - PC 2019, Kodambakkam
- 23 - 24 : Novitiate - Trichy
- 25 - 26 : Erode, PV
- 27 - 30 : Provincial Office, Kodambakkam

