



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



## Provincial Circular

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

**INM FMA / Pro. Cir. 28**

**October 2019**

*Viva Gesù!*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor". - Luke 4:18*

*My Dearest Sisters,*

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

We are beginning the month of October, a month dedicated to the Holy Rosary and the Missions. We eagerly await the grace-filled event in the annals of our Province, the PC 2019. As we prepare ourselves intensely for this all-important celebration which will culminate in Provincial Community Day on October 25, let us pray fervently that this celebration becomes a significant experience in the lives of each one of us and that the water of our daily life is transformed into the wine of new vocational fruitfulness.

Let us continue our journey with the successor of St. Peter, drawing inspiration from the Second Chapter of his post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation "*Christus vivit*", Jesus ever Young. In this chapter, Pope Francis presents Jesus as ever young, the Church real youth of the world, Mary the young woman of Nazareth, and the young Saints who are precious reflections of the young Christ.

"Jesus of the gospels was a young man and as such his youth teaches the young people of all times. Jesus was a young adult when he gave his life. He began His public mission in the prime of life, young among the young in order to be an example for the young and to consecrate them to the Lord"(CV 22). He sanctified the stage of youth by the very fact that he lived it. Our first image of Jesus as a young adult shows him standing among the crowds on the banks of the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist, just like any other member of his people. As Jesus heard the voice of the Father at His baptism, every young person who feels called to a mission in this world is invited to hear "You are my beloved child". The risen Christ, the "bright morning star" is our great light of hope and our guide in the night. He calls young people "to enkindle stars in the night of other young people" (CV 33). The Roman pontiff reminds us that Jesus, himself eternally young, wants to give us hearts that are ever young. Do we present the life of Christ to young people as an inspiration for their life to develop and prepare themselves to take up their mission in life? St. Mary Mazzarello, the wise educator and a loving mother, was the guiding star who helped the Sisters and the young people to find life and hope. The examples of Corina, the music teacher, Emilia, the French teacher, and Emma the young student testify to this. All three of them wanted to become Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and indeed became models for other young people.

Pope Francis affirms that the Church is the real youth of the world and as an ancient institution, can experience renewal by constantly returning to the source, and the youthfulness at different points in her age-old history. "In her, it is always possible to encounter Christ, the companion and friend of youth" (CV34). It is our responsibility to preserve her youthfulness by drawing strength from the Word of God and the Eucharist. St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello, as a young girl of Mornese, longed earnestly to receive communion every day and be nourished by it. In the piercing cold

winter of the early morning, one day at 2.00 a.m. she reached the Parish Church and waited on her knees until the Church door was open. How do we set an example to our young people with regard to this essential element of our spirituality?

The Preparatory Document of GC XXIV sums up its reflection on Mary of Nazareth as a model for young people. Pope upholds Mary as “the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility”. She accepted the Word, and preserved it at every stage of her existence, pondering it in her heart. The young people can discover in her life “the way to listen, the courage that faith generates, the depths of discernment and dedication to service”. Mary was the woman of strength who uttered her ‘yes’ promptly. She supports, accompanies, protects and embraces. “She was a young woman whose heart overflowed with joy...looked at life with faith and treasured all things in her youthful heart” (CV 46). Mary illumines our youth today and stands as the model of youthfulness for us educators and the young people themselves. What measures do we take to preserve a youthful heart and spirit in us and to keep abreast with our young people today?

The Roman Pontiff concludes the second chapter pointing to the “young Saints who devoted their lives to Christ, many of them even to die a martyr’s death. They are precious reflections of the young Christ and their radiant witness encourages us and awakens us from our lethargy” (CV 49). The Pope lists many young saints and blessed from across the centuries and across the continents: St.Sebastian, St.Francis of Assisi, St.Joan of Arc, Blessed Andrew Phu Yen, St.Kateri Tekakwitha, St.Dominic Savio, St.Theresa of Child Jesus, Blessed Ceferino Namuncura, Blessed Isidore Bakanja, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Blessed Marcel Callo and Blessed Chiara Badano. Dear Sisters, these stalwarts of holiness and other young people who in silence and obscurity lived the Gospel to the full, challenge each one of us to be new testimonies of holiness in today’s world, inspire us to return to our first love (cf. Rev 2:4), and inspire our young people to be joyful, courageous and committed in their pursuit of holiness.

## FEASTS OF THE MONTH

- 01 - St. Theresa of Lisieux
- 02 - Guardian Angels
- 04 - St. Francis of Assisi
- 05 - Bl. Albert Marvelli
- 07 - Our Lady of Rosary
- 15 - St. Teresa of Avila
- 18 - St. Luke, the Evangelist
- 22 - St. Pope John Paul II
- 24 - Bl.Luigi Guanella SDB
- 28 - Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles
- 29 - Bl. Michael Rua SDB

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### REASON TO REJOICE

Pope Francis during the ordinary public consistory of Cardinals has officially announced that Blessed Mariam Thresia will be declared saint on October 13, 2019, together with four other blessed including the most renowned English Cardinal John Hendry Newman. Sr.Mariam Thresia is the founder of the religious congregation of Holy Family Sisters in Kerala. As we thank God for the

gift of holiness that has blossomed in our motherland India, let us pray through the intercession of Sr.Mariam Thresia for peace and harmony in our country.

### **CALL TO PRAY**

Catholics from around the world are being invited to assemble on October 5 at Largo Giovanni XIII near St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to pray to mother Mary for our beloved Church as she lives through what many see as the hour of her "Passion" and the hour of crisis in her mandate to offer to all the believers a sign of hope. Let us unite ourselves in prayer with the universal Church on this occasion and also pray for the Amazon Synod from October 6 to 27, 2019.

Let us strom heavens for the good health and speedy recovery of our dear Sr.Rayappan Antonia through the intercession of Bl. Maria Troncati and continue to pray for Sr.Gnanaprgasam Victorina, all our Sisters and dear ones who are sick, in particular for Sr.Cavaglia Piera, the General Secretary, who underwent a surgery recently.

### **PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2019**

I am certain that you are preparing eagerly for the grace-filled event of the PC 2019 which will be held from October 19 to 24. As I warmly welcome all the Chapter members, I request all of you dear Sisters to pray intensely for the fruitfulness of this Chapter. May our reflection, sharing, discussion, and proposals for future action on the theme: *"Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2: 5)*, **Communities that generate life in the heart of *Contemporaneity***, form the strong foundation on which will depend the awakening of the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of our Institute. I am happy to communicate to you the special invitees of the Chapter: Sr. Pichai Mary Saroja, Sr. Savari Fatima and Sr. Augustine Sagayarani. All the capitulars are requested to arrive at Kodambakkam on October 18, before 4.00 p.m.

On behalf of our Province I extend prayerful wishes to our 6 FMA Indian Provincials and Sisters for the forthcoming Provincial Chapter celebration.

### **NOTE OF THANKS**

- ✚ Our expressions of thanks to Sr. Pathi Margaret and the Community of Mannivakkam for the significant Ashram Experience offered to the Aspirants from September 1 to 15, the Counselling course for Teachers from September 17 to 19 and for the Life Skill Education from September 29 to October 1. Sincere appreciation to Sr. Doss Rosalia, Sr. Sebastian Elizabeth and the Miracle Team for their effective animation of Ashram Experience, Counselling Course and Life Skill Education respectively.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr.Stanislaus Mary Dora and the Sisters of Kodambakkam Community for hosting the PC Core group and Commission meeting from September 20 to 22 and for the Citizenship Workshop on the September 29. Congratulations to the PC Commission members for completing the task entrusted to them with commitment and enthusiasm.
- ✚ Our sincere thanks to Sr.Anthony Agnes and the Community of Erode for hosting the programme on Children Parliament and Media Education to the Children of the Non-Formal sector on September 26. A note of appreciation to Sr.Lourdusamy Kalai Gnani, the Media Coordinator and Sr.Kanikairaj Shermila, the Social Development Coordinator, for animating the children.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Hearty congratulations to our evening Study Centre Children, Abinaya from Erode and Kotteswaran from Anmarudai who were chosen to give a video message representing India, on the

theme “*promoting a safe and empowering environment for Children and Youth*” and to Sr. Alphonse Mary J.Isabella who presented a paper on the same theme on September 25 in Geneva, Switzerland, during the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC).

### **PAST PUPILS CONGRESS**

Sr. Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli, Province delegate of the Past Pupils Association, Mrs. Amutha Arockiamary, Professor, Auxilium College, Katpadi and the resource person, and Mrs.Valentine Usha, the Vice President of Past Pupils Association will be attending the Asian and Pacific Regions Congress of the FMA Past Pupils from October 9 to 13, 2019 at Sam Phran, Thailand. We wish them a happy experience in Thailand.

### **A STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP**

Sr. Maindan Jeyapriya, Sr.Savarimuthu Stella Rani, Sr.Amaladoss Victoria Selvi and Sr.Antony Sheeba will be attending the State Level Workshop on “*Child Protection: The Church, Law and our Mission*” on October 12 at Kattur, Trichy organized by the Legal Cell, Tamil Nadu Bishop Council.

### **HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES**

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

- ✠ To Sr. Lourdusamy Kalai Gnani at the passing away of her Brother-in Law Mr.Maria Baskar (56) on 3 September.
- ✠ To Rev. Fr. Savio Silveira and the confreres of Mumbai Province at the passing away of Fr.Ignas Macwan SDB (62) on September 9.
- ✠ To the Salesians of Trichy Province at the sad and shocking demise of their Provincial Fr.Antony Joseph (55) on September 11.
- ✠ To Sr.Thereseraj Pushpa Gracy at the passing away of her nephew Mr.Paul Emmanuel Xavier (30) on September 11.
- ✠ To Sr.Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia at the demise of her beloved mother Mrs.Siriapushpam (86) on September 22.

### **LIVING IN OUR MEMORY - OCTOBER 2019**

- 03 † Sr. Gaidano Annetta (1986)
- 04 † Sr. Philomena D’Souza (2016)
- 05 † Sr. Zanetta Carmelina (1987)
- 06 † Sr. Marchetti Virginia (2012)
- 07 † Sr. Ittoop Mercy (2010)
- 08 † Sr. Berra Giulia (1968)
- 10 † Sr. Mezzacasa Maria (1943), Sr.Savarimuthu Lucy (2013)
- 11 † Sr. Gullery Eleanor
- 14 † Sr.Zonta Maria (1994)
- 18 † Sr. Nayagam Fatima (2005)
- 22 † Sr.Antonymsamy Regina Mary (2005), Sr.Fernando Juliet (2017)
- 26 † Sr.Savarimuthu Michaela (2003)
- 28 † Sr.Arputam Mary (1945)
- 31 † Sr.Marnetto Catherina (1953)

## UPCOMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 2019

- 05 - Catechetical Animation for Teachers, Chennai zone
- 09 - Half-yearly account Submission
- 19 - 24 - Provincial Chapter 2019, Kodambakkam
- 25 - Provincial Community Day, Kodambakkam
- 26 - Catechism and Moral Science Day, Local Communities
- 27 - Youth Social Analysis Workshop, Kodambakkam

Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an **extraordinary missionary month**. Missionary mandate of Jesus was to proclaim the good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind and to set the oppressed free (ref. Lk 4:18). The theme of this extraordinary missionary month is: **‘Baptized and Sent’**: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World’. It is an invitation by Pope Francis to awaken the Missio ad gentes and to reinvigorate the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm in our present times. This call comes in the context of the centenary year of the proclamation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* by Pope Benedict XV in 1919 who is also known as the ‘Missionary Pope’. Pope Francis writes, “Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church’s missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ...”

I recommend the communities to organize special prayer moments, events, programs, recitation of the missionary rosary, etc., that will help us, our communities and the young people to renew and revitalize our missionary call TO BE and TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS to our brothers and sisters making maximum use of the resource materials sent to you from the Mission Ad/Inter gentes Sector, Rome.

As our Mother General recommends in her circular No.990, let us live the **“Extraordinary” Missionary Month together**: young people, educating communities, people willing to give something of themselves for the human, Christian, and cultural growth of many people thirsting for Truth. Let us undertake this ‘missionary’ journey with courageous, humble and at times tiring steps, confident of the presence of Mary who always accompanies us in our journey to be “missionaries of hope and joy” just as she was.

*Happy Feast of the Guardian Angels to all the assistants in our boardings and educational institutions!*

*I wish you all a very Happy Feast of the Holy Rosary, Extraordinary Missionary Month and Fruitful Chapter experience!*

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial



## *Itinerary of the Provincial*

*October 2019*

<b>01 - 12</b>	-	<b>Provincial Office, Kodambakkam</b>
<b>13 - 14</b>	-	<b>Provincial Council, Kodambakkam</b>
<b>15 - 18</b>	-	<b>Preparation for Provincial Chapter</b>
<b>19 - 24</b>	-	<b>Provincial Chapter 2019, Kodambakkam</b>
<b>25</b>	-	<b>Provincial Community Day, Kodambakkam</b>
<b>28</b>	-	<b>Salem, Pethanaickenpalayam</b>
<b>30 - 31</b>	-	<b>Provincial Office, Kodambakkam</b>

