



INM FMA / Pro. Cir. 29

November 2019

Viva Gesu!

“...To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18)

My Dearest Sisters,

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

We just concluded the *intense grace-filled event, PC 2019*, culminating in the celebration of the Provincial Community Day on 25 October. I am glad to share with you the proceedings of each day. The members arrived at Kodambakkam on **18 October**, ready like the stewards of the wedding at Cana, to fill the jars with water to be turned into wine by the master at the bidding of his blessed mother. The entire atmosphere wore a festive look. After receiving the chapter kit, the 69 Chapter members gathered in the hall decked out for the occasion. The introductory session began with a warm welcome by me followed by presentation of procedures and regulations of PC 2019 by the Moderator. On **19 October** the members fervently entered the day of recollection. Fr.K.M. Jose SDB, Provincial, INM Chennai spoke on the theme: *New wine in new wineskins*. Highlighting the aspects of reconciliation, renewal and revitalization to “*create communities that can generate life in the heart of contemporaneity*”, he invited the members to transform themselves based on the guiding principles of truth and love.

20 October, marking the inauguration of the PC 2019, dawned with lots of expectations. Most Rev.Dr.Soundararaju Periyarayagam SDB.DD, Bishop of Vellore celebrated the Holy Eucharist. He highlighted that the new wine in new wineskins in today’s context is to build God’s kingdom and recommended that our communities must be renewed so as to be a prophecy in the world and reach out to those in the periphery. The inaugural ceremony began with prayer dance by Auxilium School, Chetpet. Fatima Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, illustrated the theme of PC 2019: “*Do whatever Jesus tells you*”, by enacting the wedding at Cana. Chapter anthem was sung by Fatima choir. I thank Sr. Lourdasamy Kalai Gnani, Sr. Salas Silviya and Sr. Johnson Towle Irine for preparing the students for the programme. We were honoured by the presence of our former Provincials: Sr. Arogyasamy Mary Celine, Sr. Arul Josephine and Sr.Fernando Mary Ann.

I am greatly indebted to Rt.Rev.Soundararaju, Bishop of Vellore, for his presence, blessings, messages, and recommendation to give ourselves freely to the poor for it is they who deserve new and better wine. My hearty thanks to Fr.K.M.Jose SDB for preaching the recollection and exhorting the members to unravel personal gifts through the channel of the community so as to meet the needs of the contemporary world by his inaugural message. The members were encouraged by the messages of Sr.Josephine Selvi, SMA Mother General, Mr Aseervatham, President, Association of Salesian Cooperators, Ms Sudha, VDB President, Ms Vimala, VIDES President, Ms Christy Kaviya, Past Pupil, Ms Sasikala, Coordinator of SHG, Ms Suseela, Teacher representative, Ms Sneha, Representative of Youth at risk, and Ms Aleena Anton, Representative of the young people. In the afternoon session, I presented an exhaustive Six Years report of the INM Province. The financial report was presented by the Provincial Economist Sr.Puliyani Lucy.

On **21 October**, educating community members from Kodambakkam and Chetpet joined the sessions to identify the most urgent challenges we need to address today as educating communities. The afternoon session was a reflection on the Reality of the Province regarding

Formation and Youth Pastoral. The central theme was: ***“To reawaken the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of the Institute”***. **22 October** was marked with the theme: ***Journey of Discernment for a new style of animation***. Morning workshop was an analysis of the paths indicated by the Holy Spirit for a fruitful accompaniment of the young entrusted to us and in the afternoon on the reality of the province regarding Social Ministry and Salesian Family. The theme proposed for **23 October** was: ***Renewed availability for fruitful accompaniment***. In the morning the members worked in groups finding ways to make our communities ‘synodal’ in the style of animation and government, of synergy between different vocations, for a prophetic missionary spirit’. The afternoon session focused on the analysis of the provincial reality regarding administration.

The dawn of **24 October** brought reflections on the theme: ***Mary, Woman of New Wine***. After the adoration, in a climate of deep listening to the Spirit, an all-important task of the PC 2019, the election of the delegate to GC XXIV and her substitute was accomplished. **I heartily congratulate Sr.Devadoss Margaret the delegate and Sr.Stanislaus Mary Dora, the substitute**. The proposals that emerged from the group discussions and from the communities were taken up for discussion in the afternoon session. The deliberations to the General Chapter XXIV were finalized. The PC 2019 concluded with a solemn prayer of thanksgiving during which I received from Sr.Stanislaus Mary Dora, Moderator PC 2019, the documents relating to the election of the delegate to GC XXIV and the substitute, summary of the reflections on the three questions of the chapter theme and the possible proposals for the General Chapter XXIV. I owe my sincere thanks to Fr.Robert Bellarmine SDB, Fr.L.Adaikalaraj SJ, Fr. John Britto SDB and Fr.Samuel Savio for celebrating the Holy Eucharist and sharing their deep insights during these days.

I am grateful to Sr.Stanislaus Mary Dora, Vice Provincial and Moderator for her meticulous planning and diligent execution of PC 2019. My sincere thanks to Sr.Puliyani Lucy, Provincial Economer, Sr.Kanickaraj Tamizharasi, Provincial Secretary and the councillors Sr.Anthonyraj Christina, Sr.Devadoss Margaret, Sr. Gaspar Celine, and Sr.Samala Elisa for their constant support in all the ventures of the Province. They deserve rich accolades for shouldering various responsibilities. I wish to thank the members of the Core Group and the various Commissions for the detailed reports on the reality of the province. I sincerely thank Sr. Kunnathu Anna and the staff of Auxilium College for collating the statistical analysis of the Province reality and Sr.Chinnanayagam Mary Sheela for the reports, photos and regular updates of the website. I am grateful to the animators and the delegates to the Provincial Chapter for animating the Eucharist, and the various prayer moments. I thank Sr. Francis Irudaya Mary for the Mass Hymn booklet, Sr.Johnson Towle Irene for having composed the Chapter Anthem and Fr.Ernest SDB for setting it to music.

I thank the chairpersons, coordinators, those who presented the activities, new ventures, and the province reality, the secretaries who presented the reports and documented the events, the Sisters for their creative recapitulation of the news and for the lively recreations. I appreciate the Chapter members for their relevant interventions with a sense of belonging. I thank the Postulants and Sr.Kulandaisamy Lourdummy, animator, Sacred Heart Home, for their tireless service. I am sure that the fruitful deliberations of the PC 2019 will stir us to move forward to serve those in the periphery.

PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY

At the closing of the PC 2019 on the evening of 24 October, the Provincial Community Day celebrations began as a fitting finale, to render thanks to God our Father, Jesus our Saviour, Mary our mother, and our holy founders for the marvels experienced in the Province. The evening prayer was based on: ‘Do whatever He tells you’. The wedding feast was brought alive by the

educating community of St. Joseph's Convent, Arni. I thank Sr. Lourdasamy Eugeni Fatima and the community for their colourful start. The festive night was marked by spontaneous expressions of gratitude with extempore dances, songs, games and jollity by the Sisters. I am grateful to the animators and the Sisters who came to greet and offer gifts. I thank Sr. Devadoss Margaret and Sr. Anthony Raj Christina for coordinating the event. I thank Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, Vice Provincial for her detailed preparation and warm felicitations.

On 25 October, as the Sisters of Anmarudai conducted the prayer moment, my heart welled up with gratitude to you dear Sisters. The procession to the altar led by the brisk dance of the little boys of Pallikonda set our hearts to dancing. I heartily thank Fr. Maria Arockiam Kanaga SDB, Regional Councillor of South Asia for celebrating the Eucharist, his insightful homily, and his words of encouragement. I thank the representatives of the educating community, the lay collaborators, VIDES members, Salesian Cooperators, past pupils, women group members, and the young people who made it to the celebrations.

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

- 01 - All Saints Day
- 02 - All Souls Day
- 13 - Bl. Artemide Zatti
- 14 - Children's Day
- 15 - Bl. Magdalena Morano
- 21 - Presentation of Our Lady
- 22 - Arrival of our Pioneers to India
- 24 - Christ the King
- 25 - Ven. Occhiena Margherita
- 29 - Novena to Mary Immaculate begins
- 30 - St. Andrew the Apostle

ALL IN THE FAMILY

ADIEU DEAR SR. ANTONIA!

October 8, 2019, was a painful and shocking day for our Province as our dear Sr. Rayappan Antonia swiftly winged her flight to heaven from the House of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. She seemed to be serene and well-prepared to meet the Lord though none of us imagined that she would leave us so soon.

She was born at Pushpagiri, Dharmapuri District, on January 14, 1968, to Mr. Kolandaisamy Rayappan and Mrs. Manickam Chinnammal as the fourth of eight children with three sisters before and two brothers and two sisters after her. Along with her parents and siblings, little Antonia enjoyed the characteristic delights of a large joint family of grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins and acquired the typical traits of being: honest, cheerful, sharing and caring, forgiving, compassionate, full of Christian faith, hard-working, nature-loving, and self-sacrificing.

Antonia entered the Aspirantate at the age of 19 after completing her Higher Secondary in Mary Immaculate Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupattur. The kindness of the Salesian Sisters, their sisterly concern and unconditional love were the driving forces of her vocational choice. She made her first profession in Bangalore on May 24, 1991. During her 28 years of religious life, she carried out her assignments as a nurse, teacher in academics as well as tailoring and arts and crafts, economer, in charge of women promotion, coordinator of pastoral works and liturgy in various houses of the province. As economer and councillor her contribution toward providing the needs of the Sisters, involvement in the apostolate of the community, maintenance of the house, kitchen, buildings, infrastructure, gardens, cleanliness of the campus, caring for the workers, the staff and pupils and all these in some of the large communities of the province is really noteworthy.

She was a person of prayer. She would spend long hours in front of the tabernacle and had an inner urge to be in the Eucharistic presence of Jesus day and night. Sr. Antonia's special devotion to Mother Mary was under the title of Help of Christians and her favourite prayer was 'Oh! Mary, Most Powerful Virgin', which was the source of joy in difficult moments. The specific character trait of Sr. Antonia was her complete surrender to God's will and her total adherence to the wishes of her superiors. She went in the spirit of obedience and worked with heart and soul wherever she was placed, with a great sense of belonging and of responsibility. With indomitable courage, optimism and strong will, she lived through these past six years of her illness with the strength that could come only from God. She was at her duty unto the very end except for the last four weeks of her life. Like her we too bow to the will of God and accept her loss with faith and serenity. Through her intercession let us pray to the Lord for all our needs especially good health of the Sisters, joyful fidelity in our consecrated Salesian life, and genuine vocations for the province. ***May you rest in the Lord dear Sr. Antonia!***

I express my thanks to the community of Sacred Heart Home and the Sisters at Auxilium campus for accompanying our dear Sr. Antonia during the last days of her earthly life and organizing the funeral proceedings.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Our sincere thanks to Sr. Susairaj Mary Sheila and the Community of Chetpet for hosting the Catechetical animation for the teachers of Chennai zone on 5 October.
- ✚ Million thanks to Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora and the Sisters of Kodambakkam Community for hosting the Economers who came for the half-yearly account submission and above all for the wonderful preparation of the ambient and the generous hospitality offered to the Chapter members during the PC 2019 from October 19 to 24 and the Provincial Community day on 25. May God bless and reward you for your great sense of belonging, family Spirit, hard work and sacrifice.

BUON VIAGGIO!

Sr. Puliyan Lucy, the Provincial Economer is leaving for Rome, Italy on November 1 for the New Economers' Meet. Sr. Kunnathu Anna will be joining her from November 17 for the course on the Platform of the Institute. They will be returning on 4 December 2019. I wish them happy journey and fruitful experience at the centre.

Sr. Antony Raj Christina will be attending the Leader Trainer Course at Bharat Scouts and Guides National Training Centre, Pachmarhi, Madhyapradesh from November 4 to 10, 2019. I wish her all the best.

SECOND NOVITIATE - I PHASE

11 young Sisters from the FMA provinces of INM, INT, INB and INC will be participating in the inter-Province Second Novitiate, I Phase programme organized by our Province from November 15 to December 15, 2019, at Mannivakkam. Sr. Augustine Sagayarani from our Province will be participating in it. Sr. Devadoss Margaret will be accompanying them. I wish them fruitful days of reflection and discernment.

TOWARDS THE CENTENARY...

22 November 2019 will be the memorable day for FMA India as it starts the three-year preparation for the centenary of the arrival of our first six missionary Sisters in our Motherland India. ***"With Mary through the Course of the Century (1922-2022) and beyond"*** is the main theme proposed by the PCI 2019 held at Shillong from August 20 to 22, 2019. With deep sense of gratitude to God and to our Blessed Mother, we remember our valiant pioneers and all the missionary Sisters who crossed the oceans with courage and hope to follow their Master Jesus Christ and to proclaim the Gospel of love in the style of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. On

this day I recommend you to animate the entire educating community on this theme and renew our missionary commitment.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY

All of us are well aware of the New Education Policy and the protests against it across the country. In July 2019, the CBCI's Education and Culture office submitted feedback on the NEP draft to the Union HRD Minister. It is contemplated that the draft Policy will be discussed during the winter parliament session in November 2019 to be passed and executed. In view of this the 'National Federation for Protection of Education' is organizing a massive public meeting on November 9, 2019 from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Chepauk, Chennai. The circular of the President, TNCRI has been sent to you. Along with our earnest prayers for this cause, I request you, dear Sisters, to take active part in it along with our lay collaborators to express our strength and affirm the minority rights particularly Catholic Institutions' recognition and contribution in the field of Education.

FMA INDIA PROVINCIALS' RETREAT

I am happy to communicate to you that all the seven Provincials of FMA India will be making our Annual Spiritual Retreat at Negombo - Srilanka from 30 November to 7 December, 2019 animated by Rev.Fr. Joseph Almeida SDB, the Provincial of Sri Lanka Vice-Province. On 8 December in the presence of all the provincials the Novitiate building at Negombo will be inaugurated. Let us accompany our leaders with our prayers during these days of their retreat and also Sr. Mathew J. Siriapushpam, community Sisters and our novices as they enter the new formation house. May the Divine Providence continue to protect and provide all that is needed for the extension of His Kingdom in Sri Lanka.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ To the Diocese of Shillong at the sad demise of their Archbishop Rev.Dominic Jala SDB (68) on October 10, in a road accident in California.
- ✠ To our Postulant Sneha at the demise of her dear Father Mr.Chandrasekar (51) on October 12.
- ✠ To the diocese of Trichy at the passing away of their emeritus Bishop Antony Devotta (76) on October 15.
- ✠ To Fr.K.M.Jose and the Confreres of Chennai Province at the sudden death of Fr. Martin Sowriappan (37) on October 22.
- ✠ To Sr.Arockianathan Mary Josephine and Sr.Verginia at the passing away of their niece Ms.Lavanya (25) on October 28.
- ✠ To Sr.Barnabas Sabina and Sr.Susanna at the demise of their brother Mr.Marianus (67) on October 28.
- ✠ To Sr. PannirselvamAlphonsa at the loss of her nephew Ravin Hesly (13) who got drowned in the river and died on October 28. Assurance of special prayers to her brother's family.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY - NOVEMBER

- 01 + Sr. Fonseca Juanita (Novice) (1954)
- 06 + Sr. Fernando Amala (2004)
- 09 + Sr. Ghidoni Alma (1980)
- 11 + Sr. Flida Morris (2016)
- 14 + Sr. Galli Clotilde (1990)
- 17 + Sr. ThonipparaRosamma(2008)
- 18 + Sr. Murgia Maria (1968)
- 20 + Sr. Avio Maria (1959)
- 21 + Sr. SchiapparelliSeverina (1980), Sr. Pereira Ludgarde (2001)

- 24 † Sr. Gnavi Virginia (1977)
 26 † Sr. David Arul Mary (1946), Sr. Rodrigues Ethelvina (2016)
 27 † Sr. Azolini Gina (1998)
 28 † Sr. D'Cruz Constance (2003)

UPCOMING EVENTS -NOVEMBER 2019

- 02 - Tri-monthly Recollection for Juniors (INM&INT), Kodambakkam
 03 - Juniors' Animation, Kodambakkam
 - Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, MIC, TPT
 05 - 15 - Ashram Experience for Novices, Mannivakkam
 08 - Quiz on the Acts of the Apostles, Local communities
 09 - Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, S.H.Home, Yercaud
 13 - Feast of St.Mary Mazzarello, local communities
 15 - 15 Dec. - Second Novitiate Phase I, Mannivakkam
 24 - Education Commission Meet, Auxilium Home, Katpadi
 - VIDES Meet, Mazzarello Home, Tiruppattur
 24 - Miracle, Midterm Review Meet, Kodambakkam
 - Salesian Cooperators' Promise Day, Perambur
 30 - Salesian Family Day, Chetpet

We begin the month of November celebrating the joy of the Saints and hope of the deceased. All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, or Halloween, is a Christian celebration in honour of all the saints from Christian history. This feast reminds us of our connectedness as Christians, that there is a spiritual connection between those in Heaven and those on Earth and find inspiration in their lives of faithfulness to God. Hebrews 11 gives many examples of the great cloud of witnesses whose lives tell of God's unfailing love and grace. These saints speak from the past and are whispering at this moment "God is faithful." "The Lord is good. Trust Him." "His grace was sufficient for me in my trials and is sufficient for you today." Let us look forward to that glorious day as we rejoice with the millions now enjoying rest and salvation in the presence of God and live as "saints" here on earth for St.Paul calls all those who follow Jesus as Saints. (1Cor. 1:2).

All Souls' Day or the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, follows All Saints' Day. In the Catholic Church, "all souls" day commemorates the Church penitent of souls in Purgatory, where as "all saints" commemorates the Church triumphant of saints in Heaven. As we remember with gratitude all our beloved deceased Sisters, Parents and dear ones let us offer our incessant prayers throughout this month for the repose of their souls in God. May they rest in peace!

I wish you Happy Children's Day and the feast of Christ the King!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA
 Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial

November 2019

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 01 | - | Provincial Office, Kodambakkam |
| 02 - 03 | - | Juniors Recollection and Animation |
| 04 - 05 | - | Provincial Office, Kodambakkam |
| 06 - 08 | - | Mary Immaculate, Tiruppattur - PV |
| 09 - 10 | - | Erode - PV |
| 11 - 13 | - | Polur - PV |
| 14 | - | Provincial Office, Kodambakkam |
| 15 | - | Second Novitiate, Mannivakkam |
| 16 - 17 | - | Provincial Council, Kodambakkam |
| 18 - 20 | - | Arni - PV |
| 21 - 23 | - | Mazzarello Home, Tiruppattur - PV |
| 24 | - | Miracle - Midterm Review Meet, Kodambakkam |
| 25 | - | Provincial Office, Kodambakkam |
| 26 - 27 | - | Mannivakkam - PV |
| 28 | - | Provincial Office, Kodambakkam |
| 29 - 09 Dec | - | PCI Provincials Retreat, Negombo, SL |

