



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
S. Thomas Apostle Province - INM
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Provincial Circular

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

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Viva Gesù!

"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1Peter 2:9).

My Dearest Sisters,

Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!

Filled with fresh memories I am glad to bring you loads of graceful blessings of Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, whom I had the great grace of encountering personally as I participated in his private Mass at Casa Santa Marta on January 24, loving greetings of our beloved La Madre, the General Councillors in particular Sr. Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, and all the Sisters of our Indian Provinces. It was indeed a very beautiful experience, being present at the heart of the mother Church, our Institute, and of working together with Sisters coming from different cultural and geographical contexts. I was edified and enriched in my working together with a group of 12 Sisters from the 12 Provincial conferences of our Institute headed by Sr. Cazzuola Chiara, Vicar General and moderator of the Chapter and experienced the joy of the family spirit, the typical characteristic of our Salesian family. I thank each one of you for your prayerful support during these days of work of the commission in preparation for the working document of GC XXIV.

Let us continue to journey with our Holy Father Pope Francis learning from him the **"Paths of Youth"** as we reflect on **Chapter V of *Christus Vivit***, in which he portrays so beautifully some of the ways of the young people of today. He opens the chapter with the challenging question **"What does it mean to live the years of our youth in the transforming light of the Gospel?"** convinced that the youth is a gift of God, to be young is a grace, a blessing and it could either be squandered meaninglessly or lived to the full with gratitude (CV 134). Hence it is **a blessing and a challenge** at the same time. As Salesian Educators called to be signs and expressions of his foreseeing love among young people, we need to understand the paths of youth so that our accompaniment becomes more educative, transformative and significant.

Youth is a time of dreams and decisions, a phase in which the development of personality is at its peak. The Successor of St. Peter says that young people "are called to move forward without cutting themselves off from their roots, to build autonomy but not in solitude" (CV 137) and realize that God's free gift of love elevates, encourages and inspires one to be better and to a more beautiful life.

When a friend asked the Holy Father what he sees in a young person, he speaks using an imagery: **"I see someone who is searching for his or her own path, who wants to fly on two feet, who faces the world and looks at the horizon with eyes full of the future, full of hope... unlike adults, whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead..."** (CV 139). He also emphasizes that in this age of decision making they cannot be stagnant or give up hope due to personal issues, troubles and social problems. They should, instead, welcome Jesus into the boat of their life and put out into the deep trusting in Him who

is the way, the truth and the life, and who can change the way we see life. He exhorts them to live their life fully in total involvement and maximum enjoyment and expresses it with remarkable sense of humour, “***Dear young people make the most of these years of your youth. Don’t observe life from a balcony. Don’t confuse happiness with an armchair or live your life behind a screen... Don’t be parked cars...Cast out the fears that paralyze you so that you don’t become young mummies. Live!... Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don’t take early retirement***” (CV 143).

Passion for God and young people urged Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello to go out to meet young people in their daily life situations sharing their hopes and dreams with the aim of forming them into “good Christians and upright citizens”. Our educational mission has the aim of promoting development of the whole person. Our mission among the young people should gradually lead them to assume responsibility for their own growth and to form themselves as persons capable of right judgment, free choice and service to others (Const. art.69). Do we know and share the struggles and aspirations of the young people entrusted to our care? Is our presence among them welcoming, active, encouraging and witnessing?

The Roman Pontiff goes on describing the characteristics of youth: Youth is a time to ***live happily and experience*** fully every little gift in life with gratitude; It is a period to cultivate and cherish ***friendship with Christ***, their best friend, and with others a friendship which is not a fleeting or temporary relationship, but one that is stable, firm and faithful, and matures with the passage of time; It is an important moment of growing in ***human and Christian maturity*** paying attention to what is essential in life, seeking the Lord, keeping His Word, entrusting our life to Him, growing in virtue and staying “online” with Jesus; It is the age in which the youth are invited to ***grow in the joy of fraternal love***, growth in generous and merciful love, to “experience the ‘ecstasy’ of coming out of ourselves and seeking the good of others, even to the sacrifice of our lives” (CV 163) and recognizing in others their hidden beauty, dignity and their grandeur as images of God and children of the Father; It is a period of growing in ***social commitment*** by broadening their horizon without withdrawing themselves into small and familiar groups of comfort in order to escape from the world which is full of selfishness and violence and by living the Christian charity in the family, in the social and political realms.

Our Holy Father appeals to the young people to be ***courageous and joy-filled missionaries of Jesus***, to be witnesses of the Gospel wherever they find themselves by the way they live. He reminds them of the words of St. Paul to become true for them as well: “*Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel*” (1Cor9:16). He concludes saying that young people are the ‘now of God and the now of the world’. He urges them to launch into the process of transformation of the world now without waiting for another more favourable hour by saying, “Young people don’t wait until tomorrow to contribute your energy, your audacity and your creativity to changing our world... (God) wants you to bear fruit” (CV 178).

Our Rector Major Don Ángel Fernández Arttime in his Strenna 2020 recommends us to deepen more and more our identity as evangelizers and educators of the faith. He says, “The relationship between Salesian educator and young people must be marked by “the greatest cordiality”, because “familiarity brings love” and love brings confidence. This is what opens hearts ..., because they are certain that they are loved”. As a Daughter of Mary Immaculate, the young girl Mary Mazzarello committed herself not only to live with God, but also to proclaim His love among the young girls by helping them to attend the catechism classes, counseling them to lead a good life and by persuading them to approach the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. “If all were zealous”, affirms Maccono, “there was no one who equaled or surpassed Mary’s zeal”. Let us give quality to our Salesian Assistance and let every one of our words and actions be prompted by the same zeal of the ‘*da mihi animas cetra tolle*’ of our saintly founders.

FEASTS OF THE MONTH

- 02 - Presentation of the Lord / World day of Consecrated Life
- 04 - St. John de Britto
- 08 - St. Josephine Bakhita
- 09 - Blessed Eusebia Palomino
- 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes / World day of the sick
- 22 - Chair of St.Peter
- 25 - Sts.Versiglia and Caravario SDB
- 26 - Ash Wednesday

ALL IN THE FAMILY

XXIV WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

On February 2, 2020 we celebrated the XXIV world day of consecrated life. On the eve of this great feast of the presentation of Child Jesus in the temple, Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Eucharist for consecrated men and women in St. Peter's basilica, in which I was fortunate to participate and I prayed for each one of you. During the homily he highlighted the unshakable faith and ardent love of Simeon and Anna who were able to see the Saviour in a small, vulnerable and simple babe. "My eyes have seen your salvation" are the words of righteous and devout Simeon. Our beloved Pope says, "You too, dear consecrated brothers and sisters, are simple men and women who caught sight of the treasure worth more than any worldly good...Because you fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind. Religious life is this vision. It means seeing what really matters in life."

I urge each one of you dear Sisters, ***"Go forth, and grow in love for God so that many young girls will be attracted by the divine light in you! Search and find with love the new vocations the Lord sends to continue our educative mission!"***

28th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11, feast of our Lady of Lourdes, marks the 28th world day of the sick. The theme proposed by Holy father Pope Francis for this day is ***"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest"*** (Mt 11:28). These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person and invites everyone to share in his life and experience his tender love. As we entrust all those who bear the burden of illness, along with their families and all healthcare workers to our blessed mother Mary, the health of the sick, let us take special care of the ailing and aging Sisters in our communities with tender love.

PRAYERFUL WISHES FOR SDB GC XXVIII

Our Salesians are celebrating their GC XXVIII on the theme, ***"What kind of Salesians are we for the youth of today?"*** in Valdocco, Turin from February 16 to April 4, 2020. Let us pray for our Rector Major, all the Provincials and delegates of that they may experience the vibrant presence of the Holy Spirit in their discernment process that would bring vital transformation in the life of the young people and in the Salesian Family.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ My deep gratitude to dear Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora, for her generous availability to take care of the various needs of the province in my absence.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr. Antonyraj Christina and the Sisters of St. Mary's Convent, Vellore, for hosting and animating the Headmistress' Meet on January 4, 2020

- ✚ Heartfelt thanks to Sr. Pathi Margaret and the community of Mannivakkam for the inter-province Second Novitiate, Phase I from November 15 to December 15, 2019 and for the Life Skill Education (LSE) from January 18 to 20, 2020. A special note of thanks to Sr. Devadoss Margaret for organizing this formative period and accompanying our young Sisters during these days and great appreciation to Sr. Alphonse J. Isabella and the Miracle foundation Team for animating the LSE for our Sisters.
- ✚ Expressions of gratitude to Sr. Susairaj Mary Sheila and the community of Chetpet, Sr.Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Auxilium Home Katpadi for hosting the Educating Community Meet at zonal level on January 11, 2020. Sincere appreciations to Sr.Mariadoss Amala and Sr. Salas Silvia, the Province EC Coordinators and the team members for their effective organization.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr. Puliyani Lucy, the Provincial Economenr, Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora and the Sisters of Kodambakkam community for accommodating the economers during the submission of House Accounts on January 7 & 8, 2020.
- ✚ Our hearty thanks to Sr. Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Auxilium Home Katpadi for the VIDES General Body Meet on January, 25 and congratulations to Sr. Francis Amala and Sr. Mahimai Doss Jeya Sunitha for animating the same.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Sr. Devadoss Margaret participated in the National Meeting of FMA India Statistics on 11 January at Bangalore, Provincial House.
- Sr.Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai attended the Seminar and Workshop on Effective Communication of Gospel Values through Media from December 5 to 8, 2020 in Dimapur, Nagaland organized by 'BOSCOM', South Asia.
- Sr. Kulandaisamy Lourdummy and Sr.Vedanayagam Catherine Viji will be attending the TNPY CRI Formators' Meet held at Poondi Madha Retreat Centre from February 18 to 19, 2020 on the theme, Forming Youth Today for Tomorrow: Challenges and Opportunities Today in the Formation of our Young Formees".
- Sr. Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi and Sr. Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli will be participating in the Training Programme for National Coordinators on Report Writing from February 22 to 24, 2020, at Auxilium, Dum Dum, Kolkotta organized by FMA PCI.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of the Salesian Province of Shillong at the demise of Fr. Alphonse Malngiang SDB (66) on December 25, 2019.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of the Salesian Province of Calcutta at the demise of Fr. Mark Mondol (54) on January 1, 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Lourdusamy Eugini Fatima at the demise of her dear mother, Mrs.Philip Mary (87) on January 2, 2020.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of the Salesian Province of Guwahati at the death of Fr. Milon Narjary (54) on January 4, 2020.
- ✚ To the Provincial and the confreres of the Salesian Province of Dimapur at the passing away of Fr. Mathew Ponnattil (81) on January 30, 2020.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY: FEBRUARY 2020

- 02 † Sr. Chiriat Mary Joseph (1998)
- 03 † Sr. Jeganathan Clara (2019)
- 05 † Sr. Louis Evelyn (2006)
- 08 † Sr. Braganza Rose (2000)
- 12 † Sr. Domingo Frances (2009)
- 13 † Sr. Watts Matilde (1959)
- 18 † Sr. De Santis Rosarie (2018)
- 24 † Sr. Bricarello Maria (1925)
- 25 † Sr. Rosini Maria (1986)

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY 2020

- 01 : Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, Sacred Heart Home / Yercaud / Negombo
- 02 : Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, Tirupattur
- 07 : Quiz on Acts of the Apostles, Local Communities
- 08 : Past Pupils Evaluation Meet, Polur
- 08 - 09: Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam
- 13 - 14: Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for Juniors, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 15 - 16: Animators' and Team Meet, Kodambakkam
- 22 : Fee Determination Committee Meet for HMs, Animators, Chennai

With the Ash Wednesday, we commence the Lenten season on February 26, 2020. This six-week period of preparation for Easter is a new beginning, time set aside for self-examination, spiritual renewal, and growth. At the basis of everything is the Word of God, which we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply during this season. Let us take to heart the exhortation of Pope Francis for Lent 2020, “*Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the Sacraments and in our neighbor. ...May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need...Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and the poor. We will then be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter*”.

I wish you all a very fervent month of February and a fruitful season of Lent!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial



Itinerary of the Provincial

February 2020

- 08 - 90th Year Celebration, St. Mary's, Vellore**
- 09 - Juniors' Tri-monthly Animation, Kodambakkam**
- 10 - 13 - Kodambakkam PV**
- 14 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam**
- 15 - 16 - Animators a Team Meet, Kodambakkam**
- 17 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam**
- 18 - 20 - Anmarudai PV**
- 21 - 22 - Motchavadi PV**
- 23 - 26 - Sacred Heart Home PV**
- 27 - Return to Kodambakkam**
- 28 - 29 - Provincial Office**

