



**INM FMA/Pro.Cir.48**

**June 2021**

*Viva Gesu`!*

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls” . (Mt.11:29)*

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!*

The encouraging words of our Mother General, in her circular 1009 set us on the right track to begin the new academic year 2021-2022 with hope amidst the dark clouds of uncertainties, anxiety, hopelessness and sadness. She says, “I sense a **new call to be light, buds of new life** with a gaze that opens onto horizons of hope in this troubled time that the entire world is living. I perceive it as **a call to give new ardour to our journey of holiness with Mary** in intense prayer and in strong solidarity that embraces the whole human family”. Let us ‘take Mary Home’ and keep our lamp always lit to continue the journey of holiness in **the spirit of the Magnificat** with more vigour and determination giving Jesus to all those who are around us and rediscovering the beauty of *being the living memory of Mary today*.

### **IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

As we are preparing for FMA India Centenary Celebrations we continue *to “Journey with Mary in the Course of the Centenary (1922-2022) and Beyond”*, with the objective *“Accept the mandate, I entrust them to you: Reviving the Family Spirit and Strengthening Community Communion”*. This month we will reflect on the family spirit according to the mind of Mother Ersilia Canta, the Superior General from 1969 to 1981, as expressed in her circulars: *“A Journey in Fidelity”*.

Mother Canta says that in our Salesian Communities **Charity takes on the characteristics of the family spirit** which is not just theoretical but made of concrete, practical, and simple actions of ordinary everyday situations and in interpersonal relationships. She stresses on the family spirit in the practical circumstances because this is the reality which our saints exemplified and this clear Salesian characteristic is perhaps what we are partly losing and must recover.

Is it not true that we are capable of giving eminent talks on charity documenting them with scriptural texts? Is it not true that at times even with the best of intentions we get ourselves involved in unnecessary initiatives, let the burden of work create tensions and find no time to be together in recreation for peaceful sharing of ideas and relaxations?

Mother Canta emphasizes that the primary areas in which renewals hoped for by Vatican II and GC XV come alive are our **Communities**. *Greater attention and respect for the person should make the mutual sense of confidence more evident, reciprocal relationships more fraternal, community information more habitual, daily dealings more cordial, planning and execution more participatory.*

Don Bosco established a **family climate of consultation and dialogue** from the beginning of his work. We read in the memoirs that Don Bosco frequently called the assistants, teachers, the Prefect and heads of the study and discussing with them what they had observed in the house. This continuous interchange of ideas and observations encouraged those who had to stay among the boys and kept the Superior in touch with everything. His insistent recommendations were: “We work together and we rejoice together; therefore, let there be unity among us. There must be unity of spirit and will”. He states clearly that the spirit which should animate the congregation is charity: “Let there be Charity in correcting and tolerating one another; never complain about one another; charity above all, in never speaking ill of the members of the Society”.

We read in Maccono’s biography of our Saintly Mother Mazzarello that she was vigilant to see that the community life should not take on a rigid character but that it should be, as it was, pervaded by sweetness, amiability, cheerfulness and joy according to the spirit of the founder. Cardinal Cagliero writes: “**Close to her heart was the desire that the FAMILY SPIRIT should reign in the community** and that the same **bond of unity, charity and solidarity** should be among Superiors, Sisters and assistants knowing full well that this was also the desire of the paternal heart of Don Bosco”.

May the thought and example of our saints help us to model our communities according to their spirit! The animating and unifying centre of these should always be the local council and where it functions well the Sisters are helped to bring a contribution of experience. There is never more family life as when there is unity: The heart is comforted, energies multiplied, people become spiritually and professionally more mature and the community becomes truly educative and apostolic.

Mother Canta warns us that the tempter tries in every possible way to prevent us from being united. But we can overcome him by resolving not to live “according to the flesh (our desires, tastes, opinions), but in the spirit, (according to the Gospel and the Constitutions)”, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit who wants us to change. He can change us by pouring the charity of Christ into us.

Mother Canta also highlights the exemplary life of the Sisters of the first community in Mornese. They are great and lovable figures and are like torches to enlighten our path and they spur us on. Times have changed, conditions have greatly altered but the living spirit of those dear Sisters and the virtues with which they permeated the house of Mornese making it a **cenacle of divine love** are still realities since all that is spiritual is beyond time and space.

**Mother Ersilia Canta urges us to reflect:**

- Do we collaborate in all the activities of our community and how?
- How do we deal with those who have a different mentality or taste?
- How do we express our charity towards Sisters in the community and others?

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 05 - World Environment Day
- 06 - The most holy Body and Blood of Christ
- 08 - Blessed Stephen Sandor SDB
- 11 - Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

- 12 - The Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 23 - St Joseph Cafasso
- 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- 29 - Sts Peter and Paul

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### NOTE OF THANKS

- ✦ Our sincere thanks to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, INT Provincial, in particular, to Sr Cruz Michael, the Novice Formator and the Novitiate Community for their loving accompaniment of the novices throughout their formative period and for the significant celebration of the First Profession on 24 May 2021 in the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam, Trichy. The holy Eucharist was solemnised by their retreat preacher Rev. Fr Jeyan Joseph SDB, belonging to the province of Trichy, at 07.00 a.m. Thank you, dear Sisters, for arranging everything in an atmosphere of serenity, simplicity and fervour. I had the joy of receiving their vows and welcoming the newly professed into our big FMA family.
- ✦ Our joyous gratitude to Sr Pilar Mabel, Provincial of the Philippines, Sr Calabig Cynthia, Novice Formator and the Novitiate Community of Canlubang for the integral formation offered with great care to our dear Sr Sahayaseelan Kajana and the grand celebration of her first profession on 31 May 2021 at Canlubang, Philippines.
- ✦ A note of thanks to the Animators and Communities of Kodambakkam, Auxilium College, Yercaud, Yellagiri Hills, Anmarudai, Negombo, Nochchiyagama, Thirukovil, and Jaffna for accompanying our junior Sisters to make the recollection and for making the renewal of vows significant in these communities. Our hearty congratulations to all our young Sisters who renewed their vows this year and for their courageous 'Yes' to continue in fidelity to the Lord of the harvest. A special note of thanks to the Rectors and communities of The Retreat, Yercaud and Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yellagiri Hills for allowing our Sisters to renew their vows along with their brothers.
- ✦ We thank Sr Rayappan Samala Elisa, the Provincial Councillor and Sr Alphonse J. Isabella, the VTC Coordinator for organizing the online orientation meeting to the animators and Sisters of nine of our communities and discussing with them the concrete action plan proposed for Vocational Training in the communities.

### HEARTY WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our dear Sr Sahayaseelan Kajana (Sri Lanka) who is returning to the Province after four years of formation and profession in Philippines. She will be travelling to Sri Lanka on 1 June and will be quarantined in a hotel for 14 days and then will be joining the community of Jaffna where the mission awaits her. We wish her fruitful Salesian religious life in her motherland!

Our dear Sr Adiakalassamy Jecinta Jayarani has come for her home visit from 29 May 2021 and will return to Casa Canta, Rome in July 2021. We wish her a hearty welcome home and pleasant days with her family and in our Province.

### MEETING WITH LA MADRE

On 22 May, all the seven Provincials of India had the joy of having the online meeting with our beloved Mother General along with our dear Sr Lucy Rose. This special encounter was arranged at the request of La Madre to hear in person from each of the Provincials the health situation of the Sisters in the

Province and the locality and to express to all of us the concern, closeness and solidarity of La Madre and all the general councillors during this second wave of the covid-19 pandemic that is affecting drastically the entire world and our country all the more. With her motherly solicitude, Mother Yvonne listened to the sharing of each Provincial regarding the challenging situation of our life and mission. She recommended us to be steadfast in our faith recognizing the presence of God and especially the Holy Spirit, during this difficult historical time, to live the Salesian Charism with creativity, to give priority to the formation of Sisters and young people, to witness to communion among ourselves, to promote missionary *ad gentes* to reach out to the whole world and to work towards a good strategy for vocational animation. She conveyed her prayerful greetings to each one of you! We express our gratitude to *La Madre* for her keen involvement in the life and mission of her daughters and her constant accompaniment. ***Grazie Madre!***

## **CFE SALESIAN PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION MEETING**

On 31 May from 10.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. there was a meaningful online event: ‘Centre For Excellence’ Salesian Partnership Celebration cum 4<sup>th</sup> Year Kick-Off Meeting, during which the success stories and achievement of the three-year partnership between the FMA PCI and Miracle Foundation were shared. Words of appreciation and gratitude were exchanged for the projects carried out to reach out to the Child Care Institutions to protect and safeguard the rights of children by giving formation to MTs, CMTs, LSE Trainers and Career Counsellors and CCI Sisters. We will be also planning together the strategies and programs to be carried forward in the coming year. Congratulations to the organizers of Miracle Team and Sr. Alphonse J. Isabella, the Program-lead, and all those who contributed to the success of the celebration.

## **REQUEST FOR PRAYERS**

Let us continue to pray incessantly for all our brothers and sisters who are affected by covid-19, in particular, let us pray for the speedy recovery of our Sisters who are ill.

## **WEBINAR ON ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT**

I am happy to communicate to you that the Sisters belonging to the profession batches from 1985 to 2010 will be attending the Webinar on “Acceptance and Commitment Therapy” organized by Anugraha, Dindigul from **14 to 18 June 2021**, two hours every day (9.00 – 10.00 am & 04.00-05.00 pm). You can register as a community as per the guidelines sent to you in WhatsApp. I wish all the participants a fruitful webinar to grow gradually as integral persons.

## **LAUNCHING OF THE “LAUDATO SI” ACTION PLATFORM**

With the Encyclical *Laudato Si’*, promulgated in 2015, Pope Francis invited all people of goodwill to take care of the Earth, which is our common home. On 24 May 2020, the People’s Pope proclaimed the *Laudato Si’* Year, the organisation of which was entrusted to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Many initiatives have been taken to celebrate this year in a meaningful way. This year on 25 May 2021 through a video message he launched the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. It is a seven-year journey traced out for our communities to take up a concrete action project and commit ourselves in different ways to take care of our mother Earth. Together with our Holy Father let us embark on this journey to pursue the vision of integral ecology guided by the seven aims of *Laudato Si’*: response to the cry of the Earth, response to the cry of the poor, the ecological economy, the adoption of a simple way of life, ecological education, ecological spirituality and community engagement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

## **INAUGURATION OF COMPUTER TECHNICAL CENTRE**

I am happy to give you the good news that on 2 June 2021 the Computer Technical Centre will be inaugurated online at Thoraipakkam between 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. As we praise and thank God for

this project we congratulate Sr Mudiappaswamy Nirmala, the Animator, and all the Sisters who collaborate with her, for their hard work and commitment, for starting this mission in-network with Tech Mahindra Foundation, for the benefit of the marginalized youth of the neighbourhood.

## THANK YOU AND WELCOME

With a grateful heart, I place on record the outgoing Provincial Team members and welcome the new members. We appreciate and thank Sr Alexander Amali for her efficient coordination of the team members and the dynamic animation of the Province as General Coordinator for the past four years.

We extend our gratitude to Sr Ambrose Arockia Jayaceli, the delegate of the Past Pupils Association, Sr Salas Silvia, Educating Community Coordinator, Sr Mahimai Dass Jaya Sunitha, VIDES Coordinator and Sr Mudiappaswamy Nirmala, Coordinator for Youth at Risk, Migrants and Non-Formal Sectors. We appreciate their creativity and commitment to animating the sectors entrusted to their care.

We warmly welcome the following new team members and wish them a fruitful mission:

- ✓ Sr Sebastian Elizabeth - General Coordinator and Youth Pastoral Coordinator
- ✓ Sr Maindan Jeya Priya - VIDES Coordinator
- ✓ Sr Mahimainathan Sathiyavani - Coordinator for Youth at Risk, Migrants and Non-Formal
- ✓ Sr Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary - Educating Community Coordinator

## HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

May God grant eternal peace to all those who lost their lives due to covid-19 especially our Sisters of different Provinces, the priests and religious of other congregations, the dear ones of our Sisters. Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during the last month:

- ✠ To Fr Provincial and the Confreres of Guwahati Province at the demise of Fr Paulus Guria SDB (35) on 2 May
- ✠ To Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the Provincial and the Sisters of INT Province at the demise of Sr Bastian Marie (91) on 1 May, and Sr Cherian Licy (68) on 12 May
- ✠ To Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima at the passing away of her mother Mrs Gnanasoundaram (90) on 8 May and her elder brother Mr Irudayaraj (72) on 11 May
- ✠ To Sr Gaspar Mary Celine at the demise of her mother Mrs Aurelia Mary (81) on 12 May
- ✠ To Fr Provincial and the Confreres of Bangalore at the passing away Fr Antony Mampra SDB (95) on 16 May
- ✠ To Sr Alphonse J. Isabella at the demise of her brother and the nephew of Sr Joseph Isabella and Sr Joseph Rosella, Mr Peter (56), on 18 May
- ✠ To Sr Susai Josephine Rani at the sudden demise of her Sister-in-law and the aunt of Sr Kabriel Gracy Marthal Mrs Stanie Mary (41) on 19 May
- ✠ To Sr Mariapragasam Reetha at the demise of her younger sister Mrs Mary Raphael (48) on 22 May
- ✠ To Sr Maindan Jaya Priya at the passing away of her father Mr Maindan (70) on 26 May.
- ✠ To Sr V.R.Mary at the demise of her eldest sister Mrs. Teresa (92) on 31 May 2021.

## LIVING IN OUR MEMORY: JUNE 2021

- 03 † Sr Barberi Lina (1986) and Sr Bagyam Mary (2004)
- 05 † Sr Martina Francesca (1994)

- 07 † Sr Nadar Catherine (2000)
- 09 † Sr Correa Alice (1996)
- 11 † Sr Drago Maria (2008)
- 13 † Sr Balestra Teresa (1955)
- 15 † Sr Joseph Lumin Priscilla (2010)
- 20 † Sr De Souza Theresa (2009)
- 21 † Sr Fernandes Evelina (1989)
- 25 † Sr Mc Guire Ada (1969)
- 27 † Sr Abramo Teresa (2017)
- 30 † Sr Fassa Cleofe (2001)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - JUNE 2021

- 06 - ISS FMA Asia Meet, online
- 10 - 11 - Provincial Council
- 12 - Province Team Meet
- 19 - Principals and Headmistresses Meet, online
- 26 - YP / SC/ Mission ad *inter gentes* coordinators' Meet, online

The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Church, governed and taught by the Holy Spirit has approved and recommended devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In our age of religious indifference when fervour and charity have grown cold Jesus exhibits to the world His Sacred Heart as the symbol par excellence of God's infinite love, the symbol of His generous self-sacrificing love for humanity. Jesus shows His Divine Heart as a furnace whose burning rays of love can reanimate faith and rekindle love in hearts grown cold and ungrateful. Consecration and reparation are the two elements of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We consecrate ourselves to the Sacred Heart by acknowledging Him as Creator and Redeemer and as having full rights over us as King by repenting and by resolving to serve Him. We make reparation for the indifference and ingratitude with which He is treated and left abandoned by humanity. As we renew the consecration of our homes to the divine heart of Jesus, let us make our hearts and homes into a living throne for the divine king.

***I wish you very happy feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,*** in particular to the Sisters and Institutions who celebrate their name feast: ***Sacred Heart Home - Katpadi, Sacred Heart Convent - Polur, SEARCH Ashram - Mannivakkam, Sacred Heart Novitiate at Negombo, Sri Lanka and Manikandam, Trichy!***

*Yours affectionately,*  
*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial**

