



**INM FMA/Pro.Cir. 49**

**July 2021**

*Viva Gesu`!*

*“Let us hold fast to the profession of our FAITH without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful” - Hebrews 10:23*

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!*

The month of July unfolds itself with a sigh of relief and a spirit of hope rendering the covid-19 pandemic situation slightly better. This unprecedented reality of our times has certainly paved the way to learn many lessons because it is not a crisis but a challenge and an opportunity to grow in innovation, to re-invent our identity as FMA and discover new ways of doing our mission using digital and social media. For this, we need to strengthen our capacity for **resilience** and help our young people to do the same. Resilience implies bouncing back from the trying circumstances with the ability to respond to change or adversity proactively and resourcefully. It invokes a process of consciously drawing on the beliefs, behaviours and skills that can help us respond to challenges effectively, and move beyond them as a stronger person. Findings from psychological surveys reveal that resilient people do not passively react to negative life circumstances, but proactively take action to achieve positive outcomes; instead of staying stuck in feelings of fear, anxiety or helplessness they step back and ask themselves: “How do I want to respond and what outcomes do I want?” They look for possible courses of action and commit themselves to actualize their goals.

We have begun the academic year with enthusiasm carrying forward our mission, making good use of social media. Let us analyze the power of our resilience so that we can strengthen those who are weak. Marianne Williamson, an American author, spiritual leader, and political activist says in her book “A Return to Love”: *“We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us... And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously permit other people to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others”*. I wish that we find new possibilities to make a difference in the life of the persons whom the Lord has entrusted to us.

### **IX 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 I invite you to reflect on the *Family Spirit as recommended by Mother Mazzarello in her letters*.

Mother Mazzarello, our holy co-foundress, instilled in the Sisters of the Institute near and far, the experience of the “Family Spirit” which is the vital element of the Salesian charism, through her loving, simple yet profound letters. She verbalizes it as the “*spirit of Mornese*” which consists in *humility, simplicity, charity, unity, work done for the love and glory of God with the right intention, recollection, living in the presence of God, confidence in Jesus and His Mother* even under the weight of daily crosses.

On 10 May 1879, she wrote to Sr Josephine Pacotto, “to be cheerful we must go ahead with *simplicity*”. The rectitude of intention with which Mother Mazzarello worked, her living in truth, in frankness and in a constant reaching out in love toward the unifying centre of her life reveal her progressive and profound maturing in spiritual life in the simplicity of every day, assumed and lived in the light of the supreme values. She writes, “Go forward with simplicity and do not seek satisfactions neither in creatures nor in the things of the world. Think only about performing your duties well for the love of Jesus and nothing else. If you are humble and have confidence in him, He will do the rest...” (L 24, 4)

Through her letter to Sr Angela Vallese written from Nizza Monferrato on 9 April 1879, she reached out to all the Sisters of the community at Montevideo, Villa Colon, Uruguay: “I’ll begin with Sr Philomena. Are you cheerful? Stay that way always, agreed? Unite yourself closely with Jesus. Work to please him alone. And you, Sr. Josephine work every day to be truly humble. Pray with all your heart and work with the right intention. Speak very little with creatures and very much with God. He will make you truly wise... Sr Denegri, how is your French? While you are studying the language of this world study also the language of the soul with God. He will teach you the signs of becoming a saint which is the only true knowledge. Take courage, my good Sisters! Jesus must be all your strength; with Jesus burdens become light, fatigue is softened, and thorns change into sweetness”. (L 22:8,10,12, 15, 21)

In the letter of October 1880 from Nizza to the Sisters of St Cyr in France, she insisted on the concrete consequences of a life spent in the *presence of Jesus and union with Him*. “My good Sisters, remember that where charity reigns, there is paradise. Jesus takes great pleasure in staying among those daughters of His who are truly humble, obedient and charitable. Act in such a way that Jesus will stay willingly among you. Words will not get us to paradise but only deeds. So, work with courage and practice virtue only for Jesus and for no other end. If we get to the bottom of things we find that it is only a question of ideas that get into our heads at times. *A daughter who really loves Jesus gets along with everyone...*” (L 49:3, 6)

In her letter from Nizza to Sr Ottavia Bussolino on 18 January 1881, our Saintly Mother urges her daughter to be faithful to the spirit of Mornese: “...never give up in the face of any hardships whatever; accept everything from the holy hands of Jesus. I recommend purity of intention in all you do; humility of heart in all your actions. Let your humility be without any mixture of self-interest. Act in such a way that Jesus can tell you; You are dear to me, my child, I am contented with your works. Courage! Whenever you are tired and afflicted go and lay your anxieties in the Heart of Jesus. There you will find rest and comfort...” (L 65:1, 2, 3)

Union with Jesus was the bridge and the bond of deep closeness and union between Mother and her Sisters. On 29 December 1879, she wrote her first hand-written letter from Mornese to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Villa Colon: “I am always waiting for frequent news from you. Enter the heart of Jesus often and so will I, that way we can find ourselves together and tell each other everything. I leave you in the heart of Jesus to make you all His, **keeping you always united among yourselves and cheerful...**” (L 14:2, 5; 19:1; 26:3; 39:2; 42:1; 60:1)

St Mary Mazzarello placed herself alongside her Sisters as one who was on a journey with them in the “construction of herself”. To the one who revealed her limits, she responded: “Look, don’t get

discouraged. I, too, am like this or I fail in this or that; but with a little bit of courage and the grace of God, we will go forward together and will arrive at becoming saints.” (Cronostoria III 153-154).

Let us follow the example of St Maria Domenica Mazzarello who lived her commitment to sanctity and the communion of charity which she transfused into her Sisters:

- ✚ Perceiving St Mary Mazzarello as one led by the Holy Spirit and who recommends us to live the family spirit, let us ask ourselves: What is the cause, the source, the spring, the foundation of our life together? The ultimate, hidden, but omnipresent motive?
- ✚ Let us analyse our own lives and answer the question: What is the hindrance to living the family spirit? (Is it reputation? ideas? knowledge? work? fame? success? other people? things? or myself?)
- ✚ What can we do to intensify our family bond during this covid pandemic?

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 03 - St Thomas, the Apostle
- 06 - St Maria Goretti
- 07 - Bl. Maria Romero
- 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 - St Mary Magdalene
- 25 - St James, the Apostle
- 26 - Sts Joachim & Anne
- 28 - St Alphonsa Muthathupadathu
- 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Hearty congratulations and thanks to Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary for organizing the FMA ISS Asia online meet on 6 June 2021 in which the principals and representatives of college professors participated.
- ✚ Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sr Alexander Amali, the outgoing General Coordinator of the province for effectively organizing the online provincial team meet along with the provincial councillors on 12 June 2021.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Antonyraj Christina, the head of the newly formed Laudato Si' Commission of our Province for conducting the commission meeting on 13 June 2021, preparing the Laudato Si' action plan of the province and for presenting the same to the Animators and Coordinators of YP-SC and Mission ad/inter gentes. We also thank her for conducting the Principals and Headmistresses online Meet on 19 June 2021.
- ✚ Million thanks to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth the New General Coordinator and Youth Pastoral Coordinator for the dynamic organization of YP-SC-Mission ad/inter gentes coordinators meet along with Sr Rajendhiran Selva Rani, Sr Lourdasamy Kalai Gnani, the Social Communication Coordinator and Sr Kanikairaj Shermila the Coordinator for Mission ad/inter gentes on 26 June 2021.

## **WARM WELCOME!**

I am happy to communicate to you that Sr Arockiam Santhana Mary has joined our Province from INT with due permission from Mother General. We welcome her to the mother province with joy and wish her a fruitful mission among the marginalised.

Sr Sebastian Princy will be returning to the province on 15 July 2021 after completing her two years study on Salesian Spirituality in Rome, Italy. Welcome home dear Sr Princy!

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

On 24 June 2021, Sr Palliparambil Leelamma was installed as the Provincial of Kolkata (INC) at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum. We assure her of our sisterly prayers as she assumes the leadership of the province. May the good Lord shower his copious blessings on her. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing provincial Sr Ezarath Rose for her sisterly support and guidance during the past years.

The Rector Major, Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, has appointed Fr Angelo Sylvester Miranda (known as Roshan), the present Vice Provincial as the 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Superior of the Salesian Vice-Province of St Joseph, Sri Lanka (LKC), for six years, 2021-2027. We congratulate him and assure him of our prayers for a fruitful mission as he shoulders the responsibility of leading and accompanying the confreres of Sri Lanka!

## **SECOND NOVITIATE II PHASE**

Sr Shakayanathan Ushanandhini will be doing her II Phase of the Second Novitiate from 3 July to 3 August 2021 at Colombo Community in preparation for the Final Commitment, accompanied by Sr Fernando Mary Ann. We wish her a rewarding journey with the Lord and assure her of our prayers.

## **JUNIORS SUMMER COURSE**

The Junior Sisters including those from Sri Lanka are having the online summer course from 21 June to 2 July 2021. I am grateful to the resource persons Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Fr George Chinnappen SDB, from TNBCLC, Tindivanam, for their lessons on 'Catechesis', the Director and Staff of ALAIHAL Media, Trichy, for training them in 'Photoshop' and to Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, Formation Coordinator, for organizing the programme meticulously.

## **INTENSIVE JUNIORATE**

Availing the lock-down days we are organizing the intensive juniorate for our six fresh juniors at Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur from 5 July to 30 October 2021. After the inauguration of their course, there will be a week-long 'Basic Guide Captains Training' from 6 to 12 July, in which six second-year juniors will be also participating. We wish our young Sisters an enriching and happy experience of their juniorate.

## **HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES**

May God grant eternal peace to all those who lost their lives due to covid-19 especially the priests and religious and 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 Chennai Province at the demise of Fr Pottakerry Antony SDB (86) on 2 June and Fr Soosairathnam Antonysamy SDB (62) on 23 June.

- ✠ To Sr Kulandaisamy Lourdummy at the passing away of her mother Mrs Annammal (73) on 2 June
- ✠ To Fr Provincial and the Confreres of Trichy Province at the passing away Fr Arulkannu Sahayaraj SDB (61) on 4 June and Fr James Theophilus SDB (68) on 5 June
- ✠ To Fr Provincial and the Confreres of Hyderabad Province at the demise of Fr Maniyangattuthazhe Joseph (59) on 6 June
- ✠ To Fr Provincial and the Confreres of Dimapur Province at the demise of Fr Stanislaus Kerketta SDB on 28 May and Fr Emmanuel Xalxo SDB on 11 June
- ✠ To Sr Ambrose Emelda at the demise of her brother Mr Edwin Lourduraj (70) on 19 June
- ✠ To Sr Anthonyraj Maria Theresa at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr John Paul (73) on 20 June

### *LIVING IN OUR MEMORY: JULY 2021*

- 01 † Sr Michael Lily Rufina (2005)
- 02 † Sr Anglesio Margherita (1988)
- 06 † Sr Fino Maria (2007)
- 07 † Sr Mathew Teresa (2007) & Sr Dias Zita (1966)
- 12 † Sr Bosotti Angela (1966)
- 13 † Sr Saletta Luigina (1965)
- 14 † Sr Pereira Nancy (2010)
- 18 † Sr Venkatesawamy B. Margaret (1999)
- 20 † Sr Thecla Chit Mary (2018)
- 21 † Sr Gnanapragasam Victorina (2020)
- 22 † Sr Lazar Idaya (1998)
- 23 † Sr Moris Kanikkam Maria (2014) & Sr Burgos Alessandra (1976)
- 24 † Sr Colombo Regina (2004)
- 26 † Sr Mary Vaz (2016)
- 27 † Sr Gila Adele Caterina (1973)
- 28 † Sr D'Souza Juliana (2013) & Sr Nazareth Edvige (2017)
- 30 † Sr Joseph Regina (2015)

### *FORTHCOMING EVENTS - JULY 2021*

- 01-15 - Ashram Experience for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Aspirants
- 03 - PCI Formators' Meet & VIDES Meet (online)
- 03- 03 Aug.- Second Novitiate II Phase, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 05 - Inauguration of Intensive Juniorate, Mazzarello Home, TPT
- 06-12 - Basic Guide Captains Training, Mazzarello Home, TPT
- 08 - VTC animation on 'Decent Work & Dignified Living' (online)
- 09 - Webinar on 'Laudato Si' Action Platform for Sisters
- 10-11 - Provincial Council
- 18 - VIDES General Body Meet & Webinar on Sal. Spirituality for Past pupils
- 19-20 - New Economers' Meet, Kodambakkam



- 21-23 - Retreat for Candidates, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 22 - Webinar on Laudato Si Platform for EC Members, Trs & Students, local comm.
- 23 - Catechetical animation for students on 'Fratelli Tutti' (online)
- 24 - Media Animation for students IX-XI and Teachers (online)
- Postulants Medal Receiving, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 25-27 - New Animators' Meet, Kodambakkam
- 28- 4 Aug. - Annual retreat for Novices & Postulants, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 31 - Human Rights Education for students and teachers, Mazz. Home, TPT
- Trimonthly Recollection for Juniors & Seniors, Kodambakkam / Negombo
- 01 August - Trimonthly animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam / Negombo

On 3 July we celebrate with joy the feast of St Thomas the Apostle, the great patron saint of India, of the Archdiocese Madras-Mylapore, SDB Chennai Province and our dear province. Thomas, our twin, is a pillar of our faith. Pope Francis focuses on St Thomas's celebrated phrase "**My Lord and my God!**", from another very touching angle. He says: "Thomas, after seeing the Lord's wounds, cried out: 'My Lord and my God!' (Jn 20:28). *My* is a possessive adjective. When we think about it, it might seem inappropriate to use it of God. How can God be mine? The truth is, by saying *my*, we do not profane God, but honour his mercy. Because God wished to "become ours". As in a love story we tell him: 'You became man for me, you died and rose for me and thus you are not only God, you are my God, you are my life. In you I have found the love that I was looking for and much more than I could ever have imagined.' God takes no offence at being 'ours,' because love demands confidence, mercy demands trust. At the very beginning of the Ten Commandments, God said: 'I am the Lord your God'(Ex 20:2), and reaffirmed: 'I, the Lord your God am a jealous God' (v. 5). Here we see how God presents himself as a jealous lover who calls himself your God".

Let us celebrate the feast of St Thomas inspired by his faith to make the same Lord Jesus also our own Lord and God. We ask St Thomas to intercede for us that we may understand our faith better and follow Jesus along the way, and for the grace to be able to die with Him to live with Him. As we consecrate our Province to the sacred Heart of Jesus on this feast day, let us ask for the grace to hide ourselves in Jesus' wounds, as He, in his body, blood, soul and divinity comes to dwell within us, to heal our wounds and that of the world which is still under the dreadful clutches of the covid-19 pandemic. ***Wishing you a very happy feast of St Thomas!***

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial**

