



INM FMA/Pro.Cir. 50

August 2021

“Christ freed us to make us free. So remain firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery” – Gal. 5:1

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`!

Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!

We begin the month of August with deep sentiments of joy and gratitude to God and our blessed Mother for the innumerable graces showered on our institute, province and each of us. As *La Madre* and the Sisters of the Council have recorded in their last choral circular 1011, “Mary continues to walk with all of us as she did surprisingly in the life of our Founders and the history of the Institute, and helps us in our efforts so that we do not weaken the enthusiasm of fidelity.” With her, we **enter the third stage of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute on 5 August 2021** with our gaze ever directed forward. Our focus will be on *planning the future with audacity* and we want to do so encouraged by the example of Mother Mazzarello who tells us: “*Courage... let us go forward with a big and generous heart*” (L 47.12).

The Lord of the harvest has blessed our Province with the precious gift of vocations in Sri Lanka: Three postulants entering the Novitiate, seven novices making their first profession and one FMA consecrating herself to the Lord in perpetuity. We are grateful for the gift of the young people who continue to join our Institute and are being accompanied in the various stages of their formation with love and care.

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 I invite you to reflect on the *Family Spirit in the light of Don Bosco’s exhortations on fraternal charity*.

Article 50, of our Constitutions, states that “*Family spirit is the creative outpouring of Don Bosco’s heart, which must characterise all our communities and requires the commitment of everyone.*” Don Bosco lived family spirit as something that binds and bonds us together. The family spirit that

permeated the life of the Oratory in Valdocco is clearly expressed in the Biographical Memoirs: *“At the Oratory, no one lived in fear but in peace and joy. Everyone breathed the air of a happy family. Don Bosco gave the young people every possible freedom as long as it posed no threat to anyone. This was the style which imbued every house established by Don Bosco including his religious community because his family spirit touched every aspect of the life and mission of the Salesians.”*

We are privileged to inherit the precious gift of this greatest treasure. In his Instruction and Exhortations to the FMA on the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1984 Don Bosco indicates the importance of practising fraternal charity in strong terms. From his writings on fraternal charity, we can draw inspiration to nurture the family spirit among the Sisters in a simple way. The exercise of fraternal charity in the community becomes a great force that sustains and makes us tangible witnesses of the family spirit. Hence it is good for us to reflect on the exhortations of our Father and Founder Don Bosco to each of us as FMA and to examine our life together as a community in today’s context.

Don Bosco states that “when fraternal love reigns in a community, all loving one another and each rejoicing in the good fortune of the other as if it were his [her] own, the house becomes a paradise...” This demands a large heart in relating with each other which is not stuck to petty things with a narrow vision. We are called to witness to the new way of living together not founded on ties of flesh and blood but the power of faith and sisterhood in Christ (Art. 36). Our founder adds: “Strive, therefore to avoid every word that in any way resembles destructive criticism, especially when directed against your companions, and even more so against your superiors. The worst type of destructive criticism is to give a bad interpretation to virtuous acts or to say that they have been performed with a bad intention.” These words of Don Bosco remind me of one of the homilies of Pope Francis, in which he speaks about murmuring. He quotes the passage where the Pharisees and Scribes complain about Jesus saying: “He welcomes sinners, and eats with them.” As the Pope points out complaining has become a part of our daily life. When we do not like something, we immediately murmur in a low voice and criticise it. ***Why do we lack the courage to confront the conflicting situation through sincere dialogue and open-minded discussion? Don’t we need to be cautious not to blow off the fervour of the others with our destructive criticism?***

Don Bosco further urges us: “... be gentle in your manner of speaking and dealing with others, not only with the superiors but also with all, and especially with those who in the past have offended you, or who in the present do not look kindly upon you.” Today more than ever there is a great temptation to estrange ourselves from those who are not in line with our ideologies. There is a subtle indifference that clouds our communities and our interpersonal relationships leaving us shallow and cold. Contrary to this attitude of indifference gentleness and loving-kindness are the hallmarks of the Salesian spirituality. Don Bosco realized it from his nine-year-old dream in which he was asked to win over his friends not with blows but with gentleness and love.

Don Bosco also suggests to us: “To control anger which is so easily aroused in times of disagreement be careful not to say things that displease others or show arrogance.” We need to be careful in the usage of words in our conversation especially in times of disagreement.

Nurturing family spirit does not imply that there will not be challenges in living together. Our Mother General Yvonne clearly states in one of her circular letters: “When I think of the family spirit I certainly do not intend a reality where there are no difficulties or hardships. I refer to communities in continuous construction where shadows and lights continually interweave until they become communion. ‘This communion of life, rooted in faith, hope and charity, also becomes the response to the intimate needs of the human heart and disposes it for apostolic giving’ (C 49).”

Being aware of our weaknesses and relying on the abundant grace of God let us strive hard to foster the family spirit promoted by Don Bosco in our communities thus breathing the genuine atmosphere

of mutual trust and joy which will be passed on to our educating communities and favour the growth of Salesian vocations. In this way, we shall build the house of God's love in our communities.

Harkening to Don Bosco's invitation let us examine ourselves:

- ✚ Do we have the capacity to let die within ourselves any displeasing comments that we have heard from and about others?
- ✚ How can we overcome our attitudes of indifference and negative criticism?
- ✚ How can we live the fraternal charity in the community in our day to day life?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 02 - Bl Augustus Czartoryski SDB
- 04 - St John Maria Vianney
- 05 - Foundation Day of FMA Institute / Our Lady of Snows
- 06 - Transfiguration of the Lord
- 15 - Assumption of Mother Mary / Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of Johnny Bosco
- 22 - Queenship of Mary
- 24 - St Bartholomew
- 25 - Bl Maria Troncati
- 26 - Bl Zeferino Namuncura
- 29 - Beheading of St John the Baptist

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora, the animator, Sr Doss Rosalia, the Directress, and the community of SEARCH Ashram, Mannivakkam, for offering the ashram experience to the second year aspirants and orienting them to enter into Postulancy from 1-15 July.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Anthony Raj Christina, and her team of Guide Captains for the Basic Guide Captains Training to the junior Sisters at Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur from 6 - 12 July.
- ✚ Million thanks to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine and the community of Kodambakkam for the hospitality extended to the Provincial councillors on 10 and 11 July, and to new ecomomers on 19 and 20 July. Congratulations to Sr Puliyani Lucy, the Provincial Ecomomer, for animating and guiding the new ecomomers.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Devadoss Margaret and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, for accommodating the junior Sisters during their tri-monthly recollection and animation on 31 July and 1 August.
- ✚ Our appreciation and gratitude to the Team members of different areas of animation for organizing the following online meetings:
 - ✓ Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, the General Coordinator, for the Webinar on 'Laudato Si' Action Platform to all the Sisters of the Province on 9 July.

- ✓ Sr Alphonse J. Isabella, the VTC Coordinator, for the animation on ‘Decent Work and Dignified Living’ to VTC students on 9 July.
- ✓ Sr Louis Isabel Sirumalar and Sr Maindan Jayapriya, VIDES coordinators, for the online VIDES General Body Meet on 18 July.
- ✓ To Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony for the Webinar on Salesian Spirituality for Past pupils on 18 July.
- ✓ To Sr Lourdusamy Kalai Gnani for the online Media Animation to students of IX to XI and Teachers of Vellore Zone on 24 July.
- ✓ To Sr Joseph Victoria for the Webinar on Human Rights Education for students and teachers on 30 July.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

We express our hearty congratulations and assurance of prayers to:

- **The postulants:** Divyanathan Helen Gracy, Lourdunathan Sujitha Jeyaseeli, Sagaya Lourdu Nathan Akila and Victor Sharmila who made their retreat from 20 to 23 July 2021 and received the postulant's medals on 24 July 2021 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi and started their formative journey with enthusiasm;
- The three **postulants** James Konar Krishmina, Fernando W. Nilmini and Vasthiyampillai Sulaixana who began their retreat on 28 July and will be entering into the Novitiate on 4 August 2021 at Negombo, Sri Lanka;
- The **seven second-year novices** Anton Bernard Liyana, Anthonipillai Arulmalar, Christopher Dionit Nilojana, David Anushiya, Nekchilan Maria Nisobana, Rathnayaka Madushika Sewwandi and Santhiogu Verginiya, who will be pronouncing their first ‘yes’ to the Lord on 5 August 2021 at Negombo Sri Lanka. This is a historical event in Sri Lanka because these seven, soon to be FMA, were accompanied from the Aspirantate, the first phase of their initial formation, through the Postulancy and the Novitiate to the point of their first profession, in their own dear Motherland Sri Lanka.
- Sr Sakhayanathan Ushananthini, the first native vocation of the island, who will make her **final commitment** on 5 August 2021 at Negombo.

We rejoice and thank God for the precious gift of these our young people in Formation and our sincere appreciation to them for their generous ‘yes’ to the Lord. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the formators Sr Devadoss Margaret, Sr Fernando Mary Ann, Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary and the Novice Formator Sr Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam for their creative animation and the loving accompaniment of these young formees.

WEBINAR FOR PCI FORMATORS

Hearty thanks to Sr Maria Luisa Miranda, the General Councillor for Salesian Family and her collaborators Sr Gabriela Patiño Osorio FMA, World Delegate of the Past Pupils and Sr Lucrecia Uribe FMA, World Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators (ASSCC) and ADMA, for organizing a Webinar on 3 July from 12.30 to 2.00 p.m. The participants were: Province coordinator for Formation, and the communities involved in the initial formation, the Provincial Delegates of the Associations of Past Pupils, SSCC and ADMA. From our Province, 17 Sisters including me participated. Our expressions of gratitude to Sr Maria Nieves Reboso, the General Councillor for formation, for her introductory talk in which she explicated how to network as a Salesian family to enhance the legacy received from the founders.

ONLINE TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION

Sincere gratitude and appreciation to Sr Borja Runita, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Rome, for her profound, well-prepared, and professionally presented input sessions on the most

relevant theme: “Embracing Ecological Spirituality and cultivating ecological virtues”, on 31 July 2021 during the tri-monthly recollection in which all the Sisters of our Province and that of INT participated. I thank Sr Runita for her generous availability to share with us the quintessence of Laudato Si and Laudato Si Action Platform with dynamism, creativity, enthusiasm and zeal. *Thanks a million, dear Sister!*

INTERNATIONAL VIDES ONLINE GENERAL BODY MEET

Sr Louis Isabel Sirumalar, VIDES Coordinator and Sr Rayappan Samala Elisa, the Councillor in charge of VIDES, participated in the international VIDES online General Body Meeting on 3 and 4 July 2021. The meeting was organized by Sr Audate Annice, the World Delegate of VIDES international, during which Our Mother General Yvonne Reungoat and Sr Borja Runita, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry, addressed the gathering and the participants had the online election of the administrative council members and discussion on the forthcoming General Body Meet to be held in July 2022.

VII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE PAST PUPILS

The FMA Past Pupils World Confederation of Mornese is organizing the online International Congress Past Pupils from 30 July to 2 August 2021. The theme of the congress is “What resilience for the Association: The Challenges, Paths, and Perspectives”. There will be input sessions on the theme: “Past Pupils are a potential that we often let slip away as carriers of the charism and ‘servants of the Kingdom’”. The action guidelines of the World Confederation for the six years (2021- 2027) will be elaborated during the congress. Sr Joseph Jackulene Anthony, the province Delegate of the Past Pupils, Mrs Valentina Usha, the Vice President are participating in the online meeting. We wish them a fruitful experience at the congress!

NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

The Conference of Catholic Bishops India (CCBI) Office Bearers are organizing a one-hour National Prayer Service on Saturday, 7 August 2021, from 8.30 to 9.30 pm, to pray for the departed souls, express solidarity with the grieving families and communities and pray for the health of the world. The event will be conducted from the tombs of St Thomas, St Francis Xavier and St Teresa of Kolkata and the Marian Basilicas of Bandra (Mumbai), Sardhana (Meerut), Hyderabad, Shivajinagar (Bangalore) and Vailankanni. I request the communities to participate actively in this National Prayer Service. The details of the prayer service are sent to you through email. Let us pray as one family to Our Lord and ask the mediation of Mother Mary and our beloved Saints to help us in this time of pain and suffering.

FR STAN SWAMY SJ, A PROPHET OF OUR TIMES

We mourn the heroic death of Fr Stan Swamy (Fr Stanislaus Lourduswamy) SJ, who went to his eternal reward on 5 July 2021. He sacrificed his life for the cause of the Tribals in India, especially of Jharkhand. The 84-year-old Jesuit priest was in judicial custody charged under the anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967, as participating in a Maoist conspiracy to foment caste violence. The news of his death brought about by the various institutions that held him arbitrarily in custody for over 9 months has shaken not just the ‘conscience’ of India, but the entire world. I am sure, you participated in online homages organized to honour Fr Stan and some of you would have also had the privilege of paying him tribute and praying before his ashes. Fr. Stan Swamy was truly the champion and saviour of the underprivileged and the marginalized. His humble priestly life, committed ministry and identification with the least and the last in the society speak volumes about his holiness. Certainly, Fr. Stan is indeed a role model for all of us, and we hope that his martyr's death will bear much fruit over time. May his life be an inspiration to all of us and awaken our

dormant spirits to plunge into action for the welfare of the poor among us, become sensitive to the plight of the underprivileged, and be their powerful voice.

PRAYER REQUEST

As we approach the celebration of the XXIV General Chapter let us intensify our prayers for the success of this great event of our Institute, in particular, that the pandemic situation gets better throughout the world so that the participants of the chapter will be permitted to travel. As per the schedule, Sr Devadoss Margaret and I will be leaving for Rome - Italy on 27 August 2021.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ To Sr Robinson Jenny Grace at the demise of her elder brother and the nephew of Sr Samuel Gloria Navaneetham, Mr Leo Vinod (42), on 19 July.
- ✠ To Sr Anthony Teresa at the passing away of her brother Mr Benjamin (86) on 29 July.
- ✠ To Fr K.M. Jose, the Provincial and confreres of Chennai Province and Sr Arul Josephine at the demise of Fr Durairaj Vincent SDB (84), the Former Provincial of INM on 31 July.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY: AUGUST 2021

- 04 † Sr Angeleri Maria (1967)
- 06 † Sr Xavier Anna (2005)
- 08 † Sr Spitalieri Carmela (1938)
- 09 † Sr Arockia Maria Teresa (2012)
- 10 † Sr Da Roit Cecilia (1981)
- 11 † Sr Soosai Maria Teresa (2019)
- 13 † Sr Sylvia Fernandes (2009)
- 15 † Sr Ravalico Maria (1980)
- 19 † Sr D'Couth Margaret (2007)
- 20 † Sr James Glorina Rita (2019)
- 23 † Sr D'Souza Celine (2013)
- 26 † Sr Tagliabue Camilla (2004)
- † Sr Vaz Mary (2016)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2021

- 01 - Trimonthly Animation for Juniors, S. H. Home, Katpadi
- 03 - Trimonthly Animation for Juniors, Negombo
- 04 - Postulants' entry into Novitiate, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 05 - First Profession and Final Commitment, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 06 - Webinar on Gender Policy for Sisters, online
- 07 - Animation for Women Self Help groups, Kodambakkam
- 09 - PCI Formators' Meet, online
- 10 - Workshop on Laws and Regulations of State (minority institutions) online
- 11-12 - New Animators' Meet, online

- 13-14 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 14 - Evaluation on CPP for Non-formal sectors
 - Webinar on 'Creative adaptability and strategies in our social ministry during this pandemic' to Non-formal sectors
 - ISS FMA Asia Meet, online
- 19 - Media Animation for students IX-XI and Teachers, Chennai zone
- 20 - Animation for VTC students- Need-based business sustenance, Chetpet
- 21 - Animators' Meet, online
- 28 - Human Rights Education for students and teachers, Chennai zone
- 29 - VIDES meet, Vellore zone

On 15 August 2021, we celebrate the 75th Independence Day of our motherland India. To commemorate this special event a year-long grand celebration will be launched with a slew of programmes and projects to showcase 'development, governance, technology, reform, progress and policy' over the years. On this day we keep the solemnity of Mother Mary's Assumption. The Assumption of Mary is God's crowning point of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction where we will follow when our earthly life is over. Both these significant feasts highlight the essential virtue of human beings, freedom. St Paul in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 5 presents the "*Magna Carta*" of **Christian Freedom**. He qualifies this freedom by distinguishing freedom in the flesh from freedom in the Spirit. The former is motivated by self-love while the latter is prompted by loving service to others. In vv.19-23 he gives two checklists to guide a Christian in true freedom. A life of freedom in the Spirit cannot be legislated by any law, says the apostle of the gentiles, for any law, can only effect external compliance but freedom in the spirit comes from within. As we celebrate these two great feasts, let us pray for the gift of **freedom in the Spirit** for all of us and our country, the leaders and every

**"...Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever-widening thought and action,
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake."** - Rabindranath Tagore, *Gitanjali*, 35.

We are happy to express our festal wishes to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the Provincial and every Sister of Trichy Province on 5 August, the feast of Our Lady of Snows, the patroness of the Province.

Hearty congratulations and prayers to the novices who will be making their first profession and the Sisters who will be making their Final commitment in other Provinces, and to those who keep the anniversary of their first and final commitment on 5 August!

***Wishing each one of you a very happy Feast
of Assumption and Independence Day!***

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial *August 2021*

- 01 - Tri-monthly Animation for Juniors, S.H.Home, Katpadi
- 02 - Pallikonda & Arni, PV
- 03 - Mosavadi & Anmarudai, PV
- 04 - Polur & Michaelpuram, PV
- 05 - Erode, PV
- 06 - Dharmapuri, PV & Webinar on Gender Policy
- 07 - St.Mary's Vellore, PV
- 08 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 09 - FMA India Formators' Meet, Online
- 10 - Workshop on Laws and Regulations of State (minority institutions)
- 11-12 - New Animators' Meet, Online
- 13-14 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 21 - Animators' Meet, online
- 15 - 26 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam, Preparation for GC
- 27 - Departure to Rome for GC XXIV

