



INM FMA / Pro. Cir. 51

September- October 2021

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech” - Titus 2:7

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù!

Affectionate greetings to you all the way from Rome!

Our hearts well up with gratitude to God for the unique blessings showered on FMA India, for the grace to reach Rome, the Centre of Catholic Church and the cradle of the FMA Institute. All roads lead to Rome. Yes. God had His plan to make us arrive safely here to participate in the GC XXIV despite surmountable obstacles on the way. Next to God, Mother Mary, beloved Mother General and the General Councillors, we owe our gratitude to our dear Sr Vilma Tallone, the Economer General, and her collaborators for their tireless efforts and audacity to deal with the officials with tact and professional expertise to obtain the necessary permission for our entry to Italy. Of course, my hearty thanks to each one of you dear Sisters for your powerful prayers that cleared all impediments. Here, we are safe, calm, healthy and enjoying the solitude during these quarantine days in the hotel “*Casa Fra Noi*”. All our needs are seen to and we have ample time to pray, reflect and be connected to God especially as I am making my annual retreat from 1 to 7 September. On 7 September we will be having once again the swab test and will be taken to the Generalate the day after the feast of our Lady of Good health. Kindly continue to pray for our Mother General, the councillors and all the chapter members for good health and a fruitful experience of GC XXIV. I reciprocate my prayers for each one of you especially as you are starting the Schools and Colleges and will have the joy of having the young people on our campuses.

On 9 August some of us had the joy of listening to the input session on “**What does it mean for us, today, to live the mandate ‘I entrust them to you’?**” by Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves, the General Councillor for Formation, Rome, during the FMA India Formators’ online Meet. It certainly means to assume as the main mission and priority the accompaniment of Sisters especially the young Sisters and help them to discover the concrete way of living the *Sequela Christi* in their life context. Sr Nieves has presented some experiences, conditions and concrete actions required to live the mandate to the full. Some of the concrete steps for the accompaniment as specified in the “Guidelines for the Formation of new animators” are: Serene and joyful assumption of the Paschal Mystery celebrated in daily life, maturing the capacity for resilience that manages fatigue and conflicts with an evangelical attitude; formation to discernment in the daily encounter with the Word of God to read the processes of change in action and the challenges of the educational mission with the readiness to unlearn to ‘learn to learn’ to promote a continual inculturation of the Charism. Formation to live the communication

culture prophetically as relational people capable of living on the social networks as spaces for encounter, sharing, and exchange. Awareness of the importance of the communion of goods, authentic solidarity, and care for creation will enable us to be a prophecy of fraternity, going out to meet the poorest, and respond to the emergencies that arise in the contexts in which we live. (ref. Guidelines for the Formation of new animators, pg 7-11).

In her circular dated 24 August, Mother General highlights the importance of networking with past pupils. She says, "**Mary Help of Christians repeats to us 'I entrust them to you', also with reference to the past pupils.** She entrusts them to us in a way different from children, adolescents, young adults but asks us to continue to be her maternal presence at any age of life". Working with joy, passion and educational creativity in this field is a further testimony of our gratitude for her protection in the past 150 years of the Institute's life and the 100 years of FMA Presence in India which we are preparing to celebrate. The past pupils are also part of this monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians desired by Don Bosco. We are entrusted with the great responsibility of accompanying each other in the community and the young people present as well as the past.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTHS

SEPTEMBER

- 05 - St Mother Teresa of Calcutta / Teachers' Day
- 06 - Bl. Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell
- 08 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Our Lady of Vailankanni
- 12 - Holy Name of Mary
- 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
- 21 - St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 22 - Bl. Joseph Calasanz & Enrico Saiz Apricio SDB
- 29 - Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

OCTOBER

- 01 - St Theresa of Lisieux
- 02 - Guardian Angels
- 04 - St Francis of Assisi
- 05 - Bl. Albert Marvelli
- 07 - Our Lady of the Rosary
- 15 - St Teresa of Avila
- 18 - St Luke, the Evangelist
- 22 - St Pope John Paul II
- 24 - Bl. Luigi Guanella SDB
- 28 - Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles
- 29 - Bl. Michael Rua SDB

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Fernando Mary Ann who along with the kind collaboration of the communities of Auxilium Negombo and Sacred Heart Novitiate organized the Trimonthly animation for juniors of Sri Lanka on 3 August; prepared our three postulants to enter into the novitiate on 4 August, and for the meaningful celebration of the First profession of our 7 novices and the final commitment of our dear Sr Shakayanathan Ushananthini on 5 August 2021.

- ✚ Million thanks to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine and the community of Kodambakkam for the hospitality extended to the Provincial Councillors on 13 August, Team Members on 20 August, the Animators on 21 August and the Finance committee members on the 22 August and to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, the General Coordinator for organizing the Team Meet efficiently.
- ✚ Our appreciation and gratitude to the Team Members of different areas of animation, for organizing the following online meetings:
 - ✓ Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the Formation Coordinator, for organizing the webinar on Gender Policy on 6 August and congratulations to Devadoss Margaret for animating the Sisters.
 - ✓ Sr Mahimainathan Sathiyavani, Coordinator of the Non-Formal Sector, for the Webinar on Creative Adaptability and Strategies in Social Ministry during the Pandemic”, on 14 August.
 - ✓ To Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary the ISS Coordinator for the online meet of ISS FMA Asia on 14 August.
 - ✓ Sr Antony Raj Christina, the Academic Coordinator, for Workshop on Laws and Regulations of State concerning Minority Institutions on 16 August.
 - ✓ To Sr Kanikairaj Shermila, the Social Development Coordinator, for the online animation of Women Self Help Groups on 7 August and Evaluation on CPP for Non-Formal Sectors on 14 August.
 - ✓ To Sr Lourdusamy Kalai Gnani for the online Media Animation to students of Class IX to XI and Teachers of Chennai and Tirupattur Zone on 19 August.
 - ✓ To Sr Alphonse J. Isabella, the VTC Coordinator, for the webinar on “Need-Based Business Sustenance” to the youth of VTC on 20 August
 - ✓ To Sr Joseph Victoria for the Webinar on Human Rights Education, Session II, for students and teachers on 28 August.
 - ✓ Sr Louis Isabel Sirumalar and Sr Maindan Jayapriya, VIDES Coordinators, for the online VIDES Meet on 29 August.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

- ✚ To **Sr Fernando Mary Ann**, who is nominated as the Delegate of the Provincial for Sri Lanka by Our Mother General, keeping in mind the need of the mission and the growing number of young Sisters who need closer animation and accompaniment. We thank Sr Mary Ann for her generous availability! My sincere gratitude to **Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora** who, as the Delegate to Sri Lanka, accompanied the Sisters and young girls in formation virtually for the past year.
- ✚ To **Sr Anthony Raj Christina** for her hard work and perseverance in completing the Leader Trainer (LT) course in Guides Movement. She had the honour of receiving the certificate from the Education Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr Anbil Poiyamozhi on 15 August 2021. She is the first FMA in India to receive this title.
- ✚ To **Mrs Valentina Usha**, professor, Auxilium College, who has been elected as the representative of the Past Pupils Association of Indian Provinces by the World Federation Council on 2 August 2021. We are also happy to know that the World Confederation Council has elected Ms Maria Carmen Castillon and Ms Olivia Furlan as the new **President and the Vice President for the period 2021-2027**.
- ✚ To **Sr Alessandra Smerilli FMA**, an Italian economist, who has been appointed as **Secretary *ad interim* of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Delegate for the Vatican Covid-19 Commission** by our Holy Father Pope Francis on 26 August 2021. We are indeed very proud of this new assignment conferred on our Sister and wish her to continue her commitment to the integral promotion of the person and care for

creation, for the benefit of the Church, of the FMA Institute, of young people, and those of the peripheries.

- ✚ To **Sr Rosa Pyngrope (INS)** who is appointed by our Mother General as the Animator of Casa Ersilia Canta in Rome. She is the first Indian Sister to be the community leader of an international community. Let us pray that the Lord may guide her in this delicate task.

ANNEXURE TO THE GUIDELINES

On 9 August, 2021 there was an online meeting at PCI level for the Provincials, the formation coordinators and the animators of the communities with temporary professed Sisters. In the first part of the meet, there was the presentation of the “**Annexure: Inculturating the Guidelines for the Formation Period of Temporary Vows to Indian context**” which is the fruit of study and reflection of the **Guidelines**, with the contribution of the PCI Formators and the involvement of the temporary professed Sisters of the provinces. It was an honour to have the presence of Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves, General Councillor for Formation, Rome, who appreciated very much the work done by the PCI and virtually released the **Annexure** and presented the first copy to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the PCI President. Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the National Formation Coordinator, presented very briefly the journey made as a conference in bringing out the Annexure to the Guidelines and the salient features specific to the Indian/eastern context and the contemporary situations which are integrated into the text. In the second part of the meet, the participants were privileged to listen to the enriching and insightful input session by Sr Maria Nieves with the theme: “**What does it mean for Formators of today the mandate ‘I entrust them to you’?**”.

Our Sincere appreciation to Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves for her virtual presence and profound insights; To Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, for her hard work and efficiency in compiling the Annexure with personal involvement and sincere passion for the formation of the young Sisters; organizing the online meet efficiently with the style of coordination for communion. I request you dear Sisters to take up the **Guidelines** to the Formation Period of Temporary Vows along with its Annexure, as a practical guide in our journey of accompanying the Temporary Professed with great responsibility and commitment.

THE SEASON OF CREATION

You are well aware that the Season of Creation begins on **1 September**, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on **4 October**, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The theme chosen for this year is: “**A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God**”. *Oikos* is the Greek word for “home” or “household”; likewise, the proposed symbol is Abraham’s Tent, which represents our commitment to safeguarding a place for all who share our common home. Heeding to the call of our Holy Father and the recommendations of Sr Runita Borja, the General councillor for youth ministry, let us make this season more significant to us, to our young people and the entire educating community, making good use of the material sent to us from the centre.

RENEWAL PROGRAMME FOR JUBILARIANS

The Diamond, Golden, Ruby and Silver Jubilarians of our Province will be attending the Webinar “**International Revival of Jubilarians**” from 6 to 11 September 2021, 5.00 to 6.30 p.m. every day, organized by Thahir Capuchin Centre. I wish all the participants an enriching experience that will renew their covenant with God and rejuvenate their spirit.

BUON VIAGGIO!

Sr Thainese Kulandai Theresa and Sr Adaikalasamy Jecinta Jeyarani who had come for their holidays will be returning to Rome shortly. While we thank them for their loving service to the Province during their short stay here, we wish them a safe journey and assure them of our prayers for their mission in the international communities at Rome.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- † Sr Felix Hilda at the demise of her elder sister Mrs Angeline Lilly Antony (78) on 2 August.
- † Fr Provincial and the confreres of INN Province at the demise of Fr George Nadackal SDB (67) on 2 August.
- † To Sr Francis Irudayamary at the passing away of her brother Mr Albert (68) on 12 August.
- † To Fr K.M. Jose, the Provincial and confreres of Chennai Province at the demise of Bro. Joseph Das SDB (87) on 25 August.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY

SEPTEMBER

- 04 † Sr Maria Dal Corso (1986)
- 06 † Sr Elizabeth Gullery (1996)
- 12 † Sr Giacomina Borrini (1972) & Sr Maude Hale (2009)
- 13 † Sr Judith Aranha (2011)
- 19 † Sr Stefanina Stefani (1949)
- 23 † Sr Maddalena Marengo (1978) & Sr Margaret Yettukuri (2004)

OCTOBER

- 03 † Sr Gaitano Annetta (1986)
- 04 † Sr D'Souza Philomena (2016)
- 05 † Sr Zanetta Carmelina (1987)
- 06 † Sr Marchetti Virginia (2012)
- 07 † Sr Ittoop Mercy (2010)
- 08 † Sr Rayappan Antonia (2019), Sr Berta Giulia (1968)
- 10 † Sr Savarimuthu Lucy (2013), Sr Mezzacasa Maria (1943)
- 11 † Sr Gullery Eleanor (1991), Sr Personeni Ancilla (1999)
- 14 † Sr Zonta Maria (1994)
- 18 † Sr Nayagam Fatima (2005)
- 22 † Sr Antonysamy Regina Mary (2005), Sr Fernando Juliet (2017)
- 26 † Sr Savarimuthu Michaela (2003)
- 28 † Sr Arpudam Mary (1945)
- 31 † Sr Marnetto Catherina (1953)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 01 - Online Project Mornese for Novices, Negombo
- 01-10 - Ashram Experience for Aspirants, Mannivakkam
- 03 - Online Webinar on Society Memorandum and Bye-laws
- 11 - Animation on Gender and Right based Economy for VTC
- 18 - Media Animation for students and teachers - IX-XI-Chennai Zone
- Empowerment of Women in action for women S.H.G
- 21-23 - Online Webinar on SDG goals for Sisters

OCTOBER

- 01-10 - Ashram Experience for Novices, Mannivakkam
- 02 - Ecological Education on organic farming and kitchen garden, online
- 04-06 - Retreat for candidates, Negombo
- 07 - Postulants' receiving medal, Negombo
- 08-10 - Counselling Course for Teachers, ACK
- 09 - Government scheme enrolment of unorganized workers, Kodambakkam
- 12 - Half-yearly Account submission, Kodambakkam
- 18-23 - Skill Training on Fashion Designing for Women Group, Kodambakkam, TV Malai
- 18-28 - Retreat on Contemplation in Action for Intense Junorate Sisters, Mannivakkam
- 24 - Online Cadre Training for Leaders
- 31 - Trimonthly Recollection for Juniors and Seniors, local communities
- The departure of Chapter Members from Rome

On 08 September, we celebrate with joy the Nativity of our Blessed Mother Mary and the feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni venerated as our Lady of Good Health. Though there is no historical document or record about the reputed apparitions of Mary at Vailankanni, they were implicitly approved by Pope John XXIII's 1962 elevation of the Vailankanni church to minor basilica status. The Pope's apostolic brief noted that pilgrims in large numbers had been visiting the shrine for a long period and that it was hailed as the "Lourdes of the East". People of all religions flock to the shrine with great faith and innumerable miracles do happen every day through the powerful intercession of Mother Mary. Let us also with filial devotion and trust pray earnestly for the humanity that is still afflicted by the covid-19 pandemic especially for the good health of our Sisters, youth, family members and lay collaborators.

St Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said. The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." As we rejoice in the birth of such a mother let us be grateful to God for the precious gift of our Blessed Mother and her constant accompaniment in our life journey.

I wish you a very happy birthday of Mother Mary and a happy feast of our lady of good health Vailankanni!

Special festal wishes to all those who bear the name of Mary!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



HAPPY FEAST

