



**INM FMA/Pro.Cir.52**

**November 2021**

*“Beloved, now we are children of God..., we know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him just as He is”. – 1 John 3:2*

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Viva Gesu`!*

*Affectionate greetings to all of you all the way from Rome!*

I have just returned from Rome and I am happy to share with you the freshness of the great and charismatic experience of the General Chapter XXIV, a «key moment for evaluation, reflection, and guidance in a common search for God’s will» (C 135). I bring you a new load of blessings from our Holy Father Pope Francis, warm wishes from the newly elected and emeritus Mothers General, the general councillors, all the members of GC XXIV, and the Sisters of our Province studying or working in Rome. Thank you so much for your powerful prayers that accompanied us throughout the chapter and during our journeys. I am happy that you were able to participate in the Chapter and be present with us in spirit through your prayers, viewing the various events online, and reading the reports from time to time. As you well know General Chapter XXIV began at the FMA Generalate in Rome on 11 September 2021 and concluded on 24 October 2021.

**The theme of GC XXIV: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity”,** made explicit the objective that the FMA Institute proposes: *To re-awaken the original freshness of the vocational fruitfulness of the FMA Institute.*

### **Official Opening**

*The 24<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was inaugurated on 17 September 2021 at 10.30 a.m. (Indian time) with the solemn Eucharist celebrated by the Rector Major emeritus Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva. He greeted, encouraged, and exhorted the Chapter Members to live this time of grace in docility to the Holy Spirit saying “He is the witness of Jesus and it is He who makes us witnesses of Christ. May He be the main protagonist of this event of grace so that the Chapter may be a true charismatic Pentecost”.*

The event continued with the procession of the national flags of 97 countries where FMA are present. **Mother General, Sr Yvonne** warmly welcomed all and retraced the journey and the processes in preparation for GC XXIV highlighting the great trust in God’s times and in the fabric that is being woven in the heart of contemporaneity to be generative communities of life and hope in the diversity of contexts and environments. She said, *“Today we are here all together, representing our different and complex realities in the five continents. The profound communion between us constitutes a strength and is an evident prophetic sign. Generativity is the mission of Mary who desired, generated, and guided the Institute throughout its history.*

*After 150 years of its foundation, she continues to generate it so that it may be in the Church and the world what it should be for and with young people. Mary is actively present and continues to walk with all of us as she did in a surprising way in the life of our Founders.”*

**Cardinal João BRAZ de AVIZ**, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, shared with the assembly the profound admiration aroused by the work of the Institute in preparation for the General Chapter valuing its charismatic richness and its commitment to be in the Church a concrete sign of synodality at the service of the poorest. He then indicated some steps to carry out the synodal journey such as fraternal life in community, listening and dialogue, fraternity, openness to other charisms, authority-service, obedience to Jesus, and ecclesial life. **Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva** presented the message of the Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime who solicited trust in God and openness to the Holy Spirit. Messages from the members of the Salesian Family: Past Pupils, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, VDB and Salesian Youth Movement who could not be present due to the pandemic were read by the General Councilors. Mother Yvonne declared open the XXIV General Chapter of the FMA.

The significant event of GC XXIV was solemnly concluded with the eucharistic celebration presided by the Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime on the 24 October, with the greeting and the prayer that GC XXIV be a generative experience of life and hope for the Institute and a trampoline to relaunch the Salesian charism towards a better future, fruitful with life and hope for young men and women of the whole world.

The journey of reflection and study of the three nuclei of the theme of GC XXIV, Vocational Communities - ‘A Yes’ that is renewed over time; Synodal communities as in Mornese; and outgoing Prophetic missionary communities - was carried out systematically. Reflections on each nucleus along with the knowledge of the reality of the Institute, the contemporary educational and ecological challenges, and the journey of consecrated life in the Church on a personal level and prayer was then shared within the sub-commissions and commissions and then in the Assembly. In the commissions we had an intense experience of sharing, listening, constructive dialogue, thinking together, and discernment. *La Madre* rightly said in her concluding talk, “Participation in GC XXIV was certainly for all of us an experience of faith and a school of formation that does not leave us as it found us.”

I look forward to sharing with you our enriching experiences and the enlightening content during the dissemination of the chapter.

### **Sincere gratitude and Hearty Congratulations**

At this juncture, I would like to give expression to the sense of gratitude welling up from our hearts for our Mother General emeritus, Mother Yvonne Reungoat for her loving and tireless animation of our Institute for 13 long years with her motherly tenderness, wisdom, and the commitment of a world leader. We express our sincere thanks to all the dear General Councilors, Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves, Sr Miranda Maria Luisa, Sr Deretti Alaide, Sr Moreira Maria Helena and Sr Boullosa Silvia, Economer General Sr Tallone Vilma, Secretary-General Sr Cavaglia Piera, and the Visiting General Councilors Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, and Sr Pece Mariya, who wisely animated the institute till GC XXIV with dedication, diligence and determination. A special note of thanks to our dear Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose for her guidance during the canonical visit to our Province and above all for her constant support and accompaniment. A huge ‘thank you’ to dear Sr Tallone Vilma without whose intervention we would not have gone to Italy to participate in GC XXIV.

A special word of gratitude to the animator and the sisters of the Generalate community for all the preparatory work done to create a favourable environment for the Chapter. We experienced the warmth of welcome and the joy of belonging to a large and beautiful family: Our Institute.

We join with the entire institute to praise and thank God for the precious gift of the newly elected Mother General Mother **CAZZUOLA Chiara**. She was born on 6 May 1955, at Campiglia Marittima (Tuscany), Italy, made her first profession in Castelgandolfo on 5 August 1975 and graduated herself in literature. In her forty-six years of religious life as FMA, she has served the Institute as an Assistant, Teacher, Principal of Secondary School, Local and Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Youth Sports Clubs (PGS), Youth Pastoral Coordinator and an Animator. After the unification of the three Provinces of Emilia, Liguria and Tuscany she became the Provincial Councilor for formation from 2001 - 2007, Provincial of the Province of Madonna del Cenacolo (ILS) from 2007 -2008 and General Visiting Councilor from 2008 - 2014. Endowed with the qualities of gentleness and meekness in establishing relationships she is noted for her delicate attention to each Sister, dedication, optimism, cheerfulness and ability to grasp the seeds of life and hope in each person and event. She served as the Vicar General of the Institute from 2014 - 2021.

In the XXIV General Chapter, she was elected as the tenth successor of Mother Mazzarello. She said her faith-filled “YES” and accepted this mandate in a spirit of abandonment to the will of God trusting in the help of the Lord. Let us accompany her with our prayers and filial support.

We are also delighted to greet, congratulate and assure our prayers to the newly elected general and visiting councillors who will lead us forward in our journey of fidelity.

Vicar General	:Sr GRACIAS RIBAS Maria del Rosario
Formation	:Sr MORAES (de) NILZA Fatima
Youth Pastoral	:Sr BORJA GALVE Runita
Salesian Family	:Sr SANDIGO Leslie del Socorro
Mission Ad/Inter Gentes	:Sr MORA VELAZCO Ruth del Pilar
Social Communication	:Sr DE SIENA Maria Ausilia
Economer General	:Sr BOLANOS Ena Veralis
Visiting Councillors	:Sr BATTAGLIOLA Paola, Sr INOUE Maria Sumiko Assunta, Sr NEVES Phyllis, Sr MUKASE Ruzagiriza Chantal, Sr STRZELCZYK Lidia, Sr. JACOB Celine and Sr. RICCIOLI Marta Liliana
Secretary General	:Sr NICASTRO Maria Luisa

We are at the threshold of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute, and the centenary of FMA presence in our motherland. Our Blessed Mother accompanies us on the path of synodality looking at the future with hope and trust. We have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit and the accompaniment of Mary Help of Christians during the General Chapter XXIV. We are incessantly reminded of the call “I entrust them to you” and the fidelity to this call is witnessed through all generations especially that of our Sisters who have the great responsibility of governing the institute.

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

### NOVEMBER

- 01 - All Saints Day
- 02 - All Souls Day
- 13 - Bl. Artemide Zatti
- 14 - Children’s Day
- 15 - Bl. Magdalena Morano
- 21 - Christ the King
- 24 - Arrival of our Pioneers to India

- 25 - Ven. Occhiena Margherita
- 28 - First Sunday of Advent
- 29 - Novena to the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary begins
- 30 - St Andrew the Apostle

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ I place on record my heartfelt thanks to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, the Vice Provincial, who gently and diligently shouldered the responsibility of animating the communities and Sisters in my absence during the General Chapter XXIV.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora, the animator and the community of SEARCH Ashram, Mannivakkam for the Ashram experience of Aspirants from 1- 10 September 2021 and of the Novices from 1 – 10 October 2021, and for the Special retreat on Contemplation in Action to the Intense Juniorate Sisters from 18 – 27 October 2021. Sincere gratitude to Sr Doss Rosalia, the Directress, for animating, motivating, and orienting the young formees to become another Christ.
- ✚ Thanks a million, to Sr Fernando Mary Ann, Delegate of Sri Lanka and Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary, animator and the community of Auxilium convent, Negombo for organizing the retreat for the candidates of Sri Lanka from 4 to 6 October, the Postulants medal receiving on 7 October 2021; and the tri-monthly recollection and animation for the juniors of Sri Lanka on 30 and 31 October 2021.
- ✚ Sr Puliyani Lucy, Provincial Economist and Sr Rayappan Samala Elisa for the webinar on Society Memorandum and bye-laws to the Animators and Economers on 3 September
- ✚ Our appreciation and gratitude to the Team Members of different areas of animation for organizing online meetings:
  - ✓ Sr Kanikairaj Shermila, Social Development Coordinator, for the online animation on the Empowerment of Women in Action for the Women Self Help Groups on 18 September; Government scheme enrolment of unorganized workers on 9 October; and Skill training on fashion designing for women group from 18 to 23 October
  - ✓ Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, General Coordinator and Sr Rajendiran Selvarani, Youth Pastoral Coordinator for the webinar on Ecological Education, Organic Farming and Kitchen Garden to teachers and economers on 2 October
  - ✓ Sr Alphonse J. Isabella, VTC Coordinator for the webinar on Gender and Right based Economy to the youth of VTC on 11 September
  - ✓ Sr Joseph Victoria for the Webinar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Sisters from 21 to 23 October.
  - ✓ Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony, animator, and the community of Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur, for lovingly taking care of our ten young Sisters who did their intense juniorate from 5 July to 27 October 2021, Sr Antony Raj Christina, Provincial Councillor and animator, Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur and Sr Wilson Arockia Anitha for accompanying the junior Sisters and following up the juniorate programme. Thank you dear Sisters for your hard work and dedicated efforts to make our Sisters feel at home and for inspiring them with good example. The Sisters after their intense juniorate have just re-entered their communities with the batteries of their spiritual energy fully charged. We accompany them

with our prayers and wish them all a fruitful apostolate and a happy experience in the communities.

## HEARTY WELCOME!

We rejoice and thank God for our two missionaries **Sr MAMANI LIENDRO Maria Susi and Sr NGUYỄN THỊ Long Phượng** who arrived in Sri Lanka, the dreamland of their mission, on 14 October after a long period of waiting. We wish them a happy experience and a fruitful mission in Sri Lanka. I take this opportunity to thank Mother Yvonne for sending them to the United States to learn English before leaving for the mission land. A big and heartfelt ‘thank you to Sr Joanne, Provincial of SEC and the Sisters of the Province who taught them English and took care of them during these past two years with Sisterly love and care.

## MORNESE EXPERIENCE OF THE NOVICES

All the Novices of INT and INM Provinces took part in online “Project Mornese” on 1 September 2021. Novices from other English speaking countries too participated. The theme of the event was “Today Mother writes a letter for you”. The novices were encouraged to live the spirituality of Mother Mazzarello centred on the Eucharist and to meet her on the 13<sup>th</sup> of every month by reading and writing a letter to her. Our novices at Negombo and Manikandam presented a three minutes video on their daily life activities. Million thanks to Mother Yvonne Reungoat who gave the introductory talk, to Sr Rebosso Maria Nieves, General Councilor of Formation, for organizing the virtual meet along with her collaborators, and to Sr Jeanette Palasota and Sr Sahaya Sangitha Rani, the resource persons, for their efficient animation.

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

We are happy to welcome into our FMA Institute the **two candidates**, PIRATHEEPAN Dobinsiya and MAHARAHATTI A. D. Sapna Nimesha, who received the postulants’ medal on 7 October 2021 at Negombo, Sri Lanka. We congratulate them and assure them of our prayers for a fruitful vocational journey.

We are proud to congratulate our dear **Sr De Rose Amala** who has been conferred with the ‘Award of Excellence’ in appreciation and recognition of her outstanding performance in Administration, Teaching, Research and Publication, by BODHI International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Science, an online peer-reviewed, referred Quarterly Journal, India, at the occasion of its 6<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration on 28 October 2021.

We feel greatly privileged to have dear **Sr Celine Jacob**, Provincial, INK Province, in the General Council as the Visiting Councilor. We congratulate her for her generous ‘yes’ to this responsible task in the Congregation. Let us offer her our gift of fervent prayers that the Lord and Mother Mary may accompany her in this delicate mission of bridging the Provinces with the Centre towards great apostolic fruitfulness. Congratulations dear Sr Celine! We wish you all the best in your journeys to strengthen the FMA fidelity to the Salesian Charism and its further growth and development.

## THE COMMUNIO SUNDAY

Last year, amidst the prevailing challenges brought out by the pandemic, Communio Sunday was meaningfully observed and celebrated in most of our parishes, institutions and religious communities across the country. This year Communio Sunday falls on 28 November 2021 as agreed upon during the 30<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI). Let us pray for the mission and missionaries in India and also generously contribute toward this noble cause.

## **ON THE PATH OF SYNODALITY**

Holy Father Pope Francis as a ‘Pope of Synods’ and a ‘Synodal Pope’ in his style of life and leadership, on 10 October 2021, inaugurated the XVI ordinary General assembly of the Synod of Bishops 2021-2023. The theme for the synod is “For a Synodal Church: communion, Participation, Mission”. The objective of this Synod is to listen as the entire People of God to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. We do so by listening together to the Word of God in Scripture and the living tradition of the Church and then by listening to one another and especially to those at the margins discerning the signs of the times. The whole Synodal Process aims at fostering a lived experience of discernment, participation, and co-responsibility, where diversity of gifts is brought together for the Church’s mission in the world. The Holy Father invites the Church to stand before a mirror to reflect upon its own being and make necessary amendments and modifications to suit the paradigm of the Church as exemplified in the deliberations of the Second Vatican council. The CCBI commission has taken up his invitation and executes this synodal preparation through each diocesan coordinator and his team. I recommend you to join hands with your respective dioceses and prepare the laity and young people for this significant event of the universal Church.

## **GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR**

*Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is “essential to a life of virtue” (LS 217)*

On 14 November, the World Day of Prayer for the Poor, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will begin offering Laudato Si’ Planning Guidelines. The Dicastery’s Laudato Si’ Action Platform is a space for institutions, communities, and families to learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. I warmly invite you to do the registration as a community/institution in the LSAP which will begin on 14 November 2021. Kindly login to the website <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org> to be enrolled in the platform. By filling this registration form we pledge our commitment to developing our plan for Laudato Si’.

## **TOWARDS THE CENTENARY OF FMA PRESENCE IN INDIA**

On 24 November we celebrate the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when our first six pioneering missionaries set their feet in Tanjore, the dreamland which their ardent apostolic hearts had long been waiting. This day marks the beginning of the third and the final preparatory year of celebrations preceding the glorious event on 24 November 2023. I will be reaching out to you with another circular outlining the details of the celebration.

Let us, however, intensify our fervour in expressing our gratitude to God, to Mother Mary, our founders, the first six pioneering missionaries, and all those FMA who came after to establish the Kingdom of God in our Motherland India.

## **APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE OF NOVICES**

We are glad to welcome our second-year novices who have come to the communities for their apostolic experience from 19 October to 19 November 2021: Sr Standly Andre Margaret and Sr Arockia Raj Sowmiya to Arni; Sr Anthony Das Marial and Sr Immanuel Celcia to Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur and Sr Anthonysamy Dayana and Sr Joseph Christina Jenifer to St Mary’s Vellore. We wish them a happy experience of the family spirit and apostolic zeal. A note of thanks to the animators and Sisters of these communities!

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ✚ Sr Anthonyraj Josephine is participating in the renewal course from 11 October to 17 December 2021 at Ryshivana, Mangalore. We wish her a happy experience of spiritual renewal.
- ✚ The **FMA-NDF 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEET** was held at Kolkotta from 21 to 25 October 2021, on the theme: “Sustainability practice and environment stewardship towards reducing COVID-19 impacts”. From our Province Sr Kanikairaj Shermila, the Social Development Coordinator along with Sr Rayappan Leema Rose and Mr Praveen participated. Hearty congratulations and gratitude to Sr Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, the NDF Coordinator, for organizing the meet, to Sr Palliparambil Leelamma, Provincial of INC and the Sisters for hosting the meet.
- ✚ Sr Paul Ezhilarasi and Sr Lawrance Daisy will do the I phase of their II Novitiate from 15 November to 17 December 2021 at the Lumen Institute, Tindivanam.

## HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during September and October 2021:

- ✚ To Sr Anton Bernard Liyana (Sri Lanka) at the demise of her father Mr Rayappu Anton Bernard (60) on 10 September
- ✚ To our Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, who lost his dear dad, Ángel Fernández (89) on 15 September
- ✚ To Sr Louis Isabel Sirumalar at the demise of her mother Mrs Alphonse Rajam (72) on 15 September
- ✚ To the Provincial and Sisters of Guwahati at the passing away of Sr Rita Mary Chatterjee (74) on 15 September
- ✚ To Provincial and Confreres of Dimapur Province on the passing away of Fr R.K Guangdiat Nicholas SDB (49), on 22 September
- ✚ To Sr Irudayam Nirmal Rose at the passing away of her mother Mrs Maria Palpisal (86) on 24 September 2021
- ✚ To Sr Savariappan Irene Novila at the passing away of her father Mr Savariappan (88) on 14 October
- ✚ To Sr Francis Irudaya Mary at the demise of her elder brother Mr Joseph Victor Jeyaraj (75) on 19 October
- ✚ To Sr Selvam Maria at the passing away of her Sister Mrs Regina Selvam (80) on 23 October.

## LIVING IN OUR MEMORY -NOVEMBER 2021

- 01 † Sr Fonseca Juanita (Novice) (1954)
- 06 † Sr Fernando Amala (2004)
- 17 † Sr Thonippara Rosamma (2008)
- 18 † Sr Murgia Maria (1968)
- 20 † Sr Avio Maria (1959)
- 21 † Sr Schiapparelli Severina (1980), Sr Pereira Ludgarde (2001)
- 24 † Sr Gnavi Virginia (1977)
- 26 † Sr David Arul Mary (1946), Sr Rodrigues Ethelvina (2016)
- 27 † Sr Azolini Gina (1998)
- 28 † Sr D’Cruz Constance (2003)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 08 -10 - Counselling Course for Teachers, Auxilium College, Katpadi
- 12-13 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 17-18 - Dissemination of GC XXIV, Animators & Economers, ACK
- 20-21 - Dissemination of GC XXIV, Vellore Zone, ACK
- 25 - Participation of Women in 'Orange Day' - Online

### DECEMBER

- 04- 05 - Dissemination of GC XXIV, Kodambakkam
- 07-08 - Dissemination of GC XXIV, Negombo, Sri Lanka

On the first of November, we celebrate with joy the *feast of 'All Saints'*. We call to mind the glimpse of our future and celebrate what we are born for: *we are born to never die again, but to enjoy the happiness of God*. From heaven, the saints cheer those on earth when they see them choose God and his qualities of humility, meekness, mercy and purity. They understand us, love us, know what our true good is, help us, and wait for us. They are happy and want us to be happy with them in paradise. They encourage us to follow the Beatitudes which are "the path of happiness," says our Holy Father. Winning the victory of heaven is not always about doing extraordinary things but is about following this path every day... in the family, community and society. (ref. The audience of Pope Francis, 1 November 2018). May the Holy Mother of God, Queen of all the saints help us to firmly walk the path of holiness.

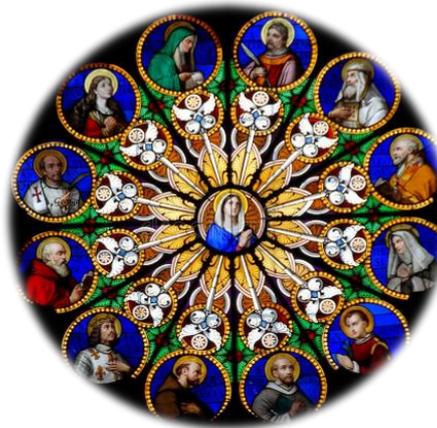
On 2 November, the *all souls day*, let us remember with gratitude all our dear departed Sisters, parents and dear ones who have gone before us to enjoy the joy of the Saints, and pray for the eternal repose of all the souls in purgatory. May their souls rest in Him, the source of eternal life and peace!

*I wish you a very happy Feast of all Saints  
and happy Children's Day to all the students who frequent our institutions!*

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial**



**Happy  
Feast**

