



INM FMA/Pro.Cir.54

January 2022

“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart” – Lk 2:19

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`!

Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

We have just stepped into the New Year 2022 with the accompaniment of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother. She is our sure guide in our life journey. I wish you, your family members, young people and the entire educating community, a very happy new year. I pray that the year 2022 be filled with God’s abiding presence and His abundant blessings of wellbeing, happiness, hope, peace, harmony, and fruitful mission. I also bring you loads of affectionate wishes from all our dear Sisters in Sri Lanka whom I was able to meet after two years during my visit from 11 to 25 December. On 23 December, all the Sisters had the joy of being together in Galle Island, a beautiful ancient seaport, 119 kms from Colombo. Indeed, it was a unique occasion to strengthen the family spirit and enjoy the sisterly presence of one another. I take this opportunity to thank you for the prayers offered for my safe journey to and from Sri Lanka.

We celebrated the **55th World Day of Peace** on 1 January 2022. Our Holy Father has given a beautiful message on the theme ***Dialogue Between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace***. He proposes *three paths* for building a lasting peace: the *dialogue between generations* as the basis for the realization of shared projects, *education* as a factor of freedom, responsibility and development, and *labour* as a means for the full realization of human dignity. These are three indispensable elements for “making possible the creation of a social covenant”, without which every project of peace turns out to be insubstantial.

The United Nations Organization has announced this year as the **International Year of Glass** with the aim of underlining the technological, scientific, economic, environmental, historical and artistic role of glass in our societies, emphasizing the rich possibilities of developing technologies. The organization has also given three more themes for this year such as **Artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, Basic Science and Mountain development**. All these themes aim to give a potential contribution to meeting the challenges of sustainable development and inclusive societies, achieving world economic recovery and building back better from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and bringing together the threads of technology, social history and art through educational programmes and museum exhibitions. It can facilitate the exchange of best practices and the creation of partnerships between key stakeholders to support developing countries in achieving sustainability in these areas, creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

The theme of our Rector Major's **Strenna 2022** is based on the maxim of St Francis de Sales "***Do all through love, nothing through constraint***", marking the 400th anniversary of the death of the Patron of our Congregation. The Strenna is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and find oneself in the spirituality of St Francis de Sales while commemorating the fourth centenary of his death and to appreciate even more the magnificent characteristics of *Don Bosco's Salesian spirit*, as also the precious values of *Salesian youth spirituality*. Our Rector Major invites all of us to be "more Salesian" in our Salesian Family, that is to say, more filled with the spirit of St Francis de Sales, a spirit that permeates our *Salesianity as the family of Don Bosco*.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On 24 November 2021, FMA India gloriously stepped into the third year in preparation for the Centenary of the arrival of the pioneering missionaries to our motherland. We continue to "*Journey with Mary in the Course of the Centenary (1922-2022) and Beyond*", during this third year of preparation along with our Institute. The main **theme is: *Plan the future boldly. "Courage! Let us go ahead with a great and generous heart"*** (L 47, 12) as prophets and witnesses for a transformed society in the **style of synodality**, keeping in mind the **objective**: "To accompany the young towards integral formation making them agents of social change". I invite you to reflect on the style of synodality throughout this year.

The new threshold that Pope Francis invites us to cross in the wake of the Vatican II renewal proposal is that we launch into a new style of ***thinking and acting 'synodally'*** which in itself is a rich and precious pathway. If making a synodal Church a reality is an indispensable precondition for new missionary energy that will involve the entire People of God, it is all the more imperative for every FMA, who living in the community, *finds the deepest reason for its existence in the mystery of Trinitarian communion. Among the people of God, it is a particular sign of a new way of living together* (C.Art.36).

Synodality is at the heart of the commitment of every baptized person and especially of the consecrated person because it represents an ***invitation to walk together on the path towards full communion*** and because it offers a way of understanding and experiencing the community communion where legitimate differences find room in the logic of a reciprocal exchange of gifts in the light of truth. Pope Francis says that this journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience the processes that can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to the mission. Our "journeying together" is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.

The Supreme Pontiff reiterates that living a participative and inclusive process that offers everyone, especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins, the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard in order to contribute to the edification of all in as much as they are children of God whose rights must be respected. In this process we who ought to live in a community need to live ***docibilitas***, recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of the community and the benefit of the entire human family. We are called to explore participatory ways of exercising responsibility in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the effort to build a more beautiful and habitable world while forming the children, young people and women to be good and responsible, honest and upright citizens. Pope Francis exhorts us that we as a community ought to be ***a credible subject and reliable partner in paths of social dialogue, healing, reconciliation, inclusion and participation, the reconstruction of democracy, the promotion of fraternity and social friendship***. We often fail in this our duty as individuals and as a community. This time in history can provide us that suitable climate, Kairos, a time of grace to encounter, listen

and discern together as people of God. St Paul expresses it in the words: "Behold, now is the favourable time, behold now is the day of salvation"(2Cor.6:2).

The Holy Father rightly affirms the truth that despite our infidelities, the Spirit continues to act in history and in our lives to show his life-giving power. It is precisely in the furrows dug by the sufferings of every kind endured by the human family and by the People of God that new languages of faith and new paths are flourishing. We can say that even in our Institute and Province community is a sign of vitality and renewal.

We are well aware that *together we need to ask the Lord for "the grace of conversion and the interior anointing"* to courageously combat the evil that threatens our life from within and without, that hinders community communion and apostolic fruitfulness. At the same time, the decision to "journey together" is a prophetic sign for the human family, which needs a shared project capable of pursuing the good of all. We constantly strive to build a community that is capable of ***communion and fraternity, of participation and subsidiarity***; in fidelity to what it proclaims, we will be able to stand beside the poor and the least and lend them our own voice. In order to "journey together," we need to let ourselves be educated by the Spirit to a truly synodal mentality, entering with courage and freedom of heart into a conversion process that is indispensable for the continual reformation of which the Church always has a need in so far as She is a human institution(cf. EG, no. 26).

In Mornese a more ***lively sense of fraternity*** was prevalent due to several factors. We see the free flow of more people who, moved by the Spirit, little by little decide to join Mary Mazzarello to fraternally share the common ideal of life and the same apostolic anxiety. This is prolonged and accentuated after the foundation of the Institute. There was an intimate link between the style of authority and the family spirit. Saint Mary Mazzarello exercised this ***service with the humble and generous gift of her whole self***. From the diligent documentation of the *Cronistoria* we find Mother Mazzarello's energy placed at the service of a serene, generous, joyful, and sisterly coexistence in the community. As Colli Carlo asserts, some aspects of Mary Mazzarello's rich and balanced personality seem to have particularly contributed to the creation of the family environment of the origins. First of all, her frankness, her implacable uprightness, and her disarming sincerity: her absolute transparency in relationships that does not tolerate falsity or ulterior motives. Secondly, her absolute impartiality. Frankness and impartiality were both dominated by her goodness, her benign and indulgent understanding of the weakness and frailty of others, by her delicate attention to the person of each Sister. We know that pride and selfishness are real obstacles in our relationships with God and neighbour. St Mary Mazzarello often stresses that one should not get depressed for one's own faults "because it would be greater pride" (Cf. Cr. II 223). With vigilance let us overcome our defects.

Let our striving for holiness be in the style of synodality, accepting our limitations and those of others in sincerity and humility and build the kingdom of God with tireless zeal and enthusiasm.

- *Am I transparent in all my dealings with my sisters and collaborators in the community and the mission?*
- *What efforts do I make to overcome my pride and selfishness that hinder synodal style in weaving relationships with others?*
- *How does our community witness to 'communion and fraternity, participation and subsidiarity'?*

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH - JANUARY

- 01 - Mary, Mother of God
- 02 - The Epiphany of the Lord
- 08 - Bl. Titus Zeman SDB
- 09 - The Baptism of the Lord

- 15 - Bl. Louis Variara SDB
- 16 - St Joseph Vaz
- 18-25- Unity Octave
- 22 - Bl. Laura Vicuna
- 24 - St Francis De Sales
- 25 - Conversion of St Paul
- 26 - Republic Day
- 30 - Bl Bronislao Markiewicz SDB
- 31 - St John Bosco

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, the animator and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the Dissemination of GC XXIV on 4 and 5 December 2021.
- ✚ Thanks a million, to Sr Anthonyraj Christina and the Community of Mary Immaculate Convent for the hospitality extended to me and Provincial Councillors on 8 and 9 December 2021
- ✚ A record of thanks to Sr Mary Ann and the Animators of Sri Lanka for organising and arranging everything in detail for the get-together of the Sisters in Sri Lanka on 23 December.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Kunnathu Anna and the community of Auxilium College, Katpadi, for making all the arrangements to create a prayerful atmosphere for the 56 Sisters of First Annual Retreat of the year from 26 December 2021 to 2 January 2022. Our appreciation and gratitude to our dear Sr Devadoss Margaret for preaching the retreat very efficiently and effectively based on the contents of GC XXIV.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, General Coordinator, for organizing the Team Meet on 2 January and to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi for hosting the same.
- ✚ Loving thanks to Sr Devadoss Margaret and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi for hosting the Provincial Council Meet on 3 and 4 January 2022.

FMA PCI NATIONAL COORDINATORS' MEET

On 6 December all the National Coordinators of the sectors headed by Sr Komuhra Lydia, the General Coordinator, had the zoom meeting along with the Provincials of India. Each coordinator presented a concise report regarding the journey FMA India is making in each sector, with vision, objectives, a brief account of the roadmap during the pandemic, their proposal for the long-term and short-term goals and a few best practices that they will implement in their sector. We realise the need to make a unified journey as FMA India as we step into the centenary year to make our presence more visible and credible. My sincere appreciation to Sr Lydia and all the coordinators! After this meeting, the Provincials met together to discuss and decide on certain common issues especially the organization of the forthcoming PCI 2022 meet to be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Trichy. I extend my gratitude to all the Provincials too for their sisterly collaboration and active involvement.

FMA PCI MEET 2022

I am glad to communicate to you that along with me, the following Sisters will participate in the FMA PCI 2022 Meet at the Provincial House, Trichy, from 31 January to 3 February 2022: Sr Alexander Amali and Sr AntonyRaj Christina as delegates by the Province and Provincial Council respectively,

Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi as the National Coordinator for Formation and as PCI Secretary. I request your prayers for the fruitfulness of this national event and for all the participants.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to Rev Fr Thomas Santiagu SDB who has been appointed as the 6th Provincial of INH by our Rector Major Don Angel Fernandez Artime. He will be installed as Provincial on 4 February 2022 at the Provincial House in Hyderabad.

GOOD NEWS

We thank the God of goodness because Sr Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam, the Novice Formator, Negombo, obtained the long-awaited residential visa to Sri Lanka. She was happy to get back to the Novitiate community on 3 January 2022. We wish her a fruitful mission as she continues to form the future FMA for Sri Lanka.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during December 2021 and these few days:

- ✠ To the Provincial and the confreres of Chennai Province at the tragic demises of Fr Xavier Suresh SDB (36) on 6 December 2021 and Bro. Laleth Sukan SDB (31) on 3 January 2022.
- ✠ To Sr Meenakshi D'Silva and the Sisters of the Mumbai Province, at the passing away of Sr Misquitta Ruth (92) on 18 December 2021
- ✠ To the Salesian Province of Kolkata at the passing away of Fr Samuel Mondol SDB (49) on 28 December 2021
- ✠ To Sr Chinnanayagam Mary Sheela at the demise of her dear mother Mrs. Clara (78) on 29 December 2021

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY-JANUARY 2022

- 03 † Sr Rita Thomas (2013)
- 08 † Sr Appiano Clotilde (1968)
- 14 † Sr Villa Teresa (1989)
- 18 † Sr Walentyna Czernick (2009)
- 19 † Sr Christina Galus (2017)
- 24 † Sr Mania Caterina (1983)
- † Sr Muthusamy Rosary (2018)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS -JANUARY 2021

- 2 - Provincial Team Meet, Auxilium Home, Katpadi
- 3-4 - Provincial Council, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 6-8 - Counselling Course for Teachers, Mannivakkam
- 8 - Educating Community Meet - Online
- 9 - Past Pupils General Body Meet - Online
- 11-12 - Submission of House Accounts, Kodambakkam
- 13-16 - Salesian Family Days - Online
- 13 - Orientation and Headmistresses/Principals meet, Kodambakkam
- 14-16 - Animators, HMs, Principals and Team Meet, Kodambakkam
- 22 - Provincial Community Day, St Mary's Vellore

- 28 - Eco Festivity, Local communities
- 29 - Youth Fest - Sri Lanka, local communities
- 31 - Renewal of Promise - Salesian Cooperators, Local units
- 31Jan. -3 Feb- FMA PCI Meet, Manikandam -Trichy

January can be called as Salesian month as we celebrate the feasts of three great giants of holiness in the Salesian Family: St Francis De Sales, St John Bosco and Blessed Laura Vicuna.

On 22 January we celebrate the feast of our young saint **Blessed Laura Vicuna**, who being in the School of Maria Auxiliadora in Junin de los Andes from 1900 to 1904, attained sanctity at a tender age. She spent more time praying in the chapel and was very kind and patient to her companions. Interiorizing the word of Jesus, “No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends,” Laura decided to give her life in exchange for her mother's salvation. She stands as a great model of evangelical courage, sacrifice and genuine love for the young people today. We the educators of young people are invited to inculcate in them the thirst for God and love for sacrifice and make them God-loving persons and honest citizens.

On 24 January we celebrate the feast of **St Francis De Sales**, the patron of our Institute. Our Mother General Sr Cazzuola Chiara writes in her circular 1013, “St Francis De Sales, the holy Bishop of Geneva, became the inspirer of Salesian spirituality and a model shepherd to whom Don Bosco looked from the very beginning of his work, for his ability to make himself lovable, for his intense apostolic activity, and the desire that everyone would know and meet the God of mercy and forgiveness. Don Bosco chose him as Patron and model of life from his priestly Ordination...because the mission to the young required great calm and gentleness” - “A drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall.” Let us take on more consciously the spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales, to appreciate it as the foundation of Don Bosco's educational style and of Salesian youth spirituality.

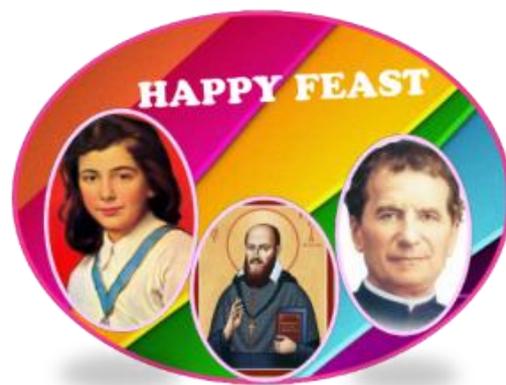
On 31 January we joyfully celebrate the **feast of St John Bosco** our father and founder. He realized his personal holiness through an educative commitment lived with zeal and an apostolic heart and at the same time knew how to propose holiness to young people as the practical objective of his pedagogy. In the Church and in the world the integral educative vision that we see incarnated in John Bosco is a realistic pedagogy of sanctity. The originality and boldness of the plan for youthful holiness is intrinsic to the educational art of this great Saint who can rightly be called the master of youth spirituality affirms St Pope John Paul II. The great prophetic message of St John Bosco the educator, his originality and brilliance is linked with the educational method which he himself called the *preventive system that represents the quintessence of his pedagogical wisdom*. Don Bosco had a tender and filial devotion to Mary whom he considered as the Mother, Teacher and Foundress of his works. As we celebrate his feast along with our young people, educating community and Salesian Family, let us assume more and more his spirituality and be mothers and sisters accompanying the young people in their journey towards holiness.

I wish each one of you a very happy feast of Laura Vicuna, St Francis De Sales and St John Bosco!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial

JANUARY 2022

- 02 - Provincial Team Meet, Auxilium Home
- 03-04 - Provincial Council, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 06 - Meeting with Miracle Foundation India, Online
- 08 - Educating Community Meet, Online
- 09 - Past Pupils General Body Meet, Online
- 10-12 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 13 - Animation for Sisters, Kodambakkam
- 14-16 - Animators, HMs & Team Meet, Kodambakkam
- 18 - Nandambakkam – PV
- 19 - Vyasarpadi – PV
- 22 - Provincial Community Day, St.Mary's – Vellore
- 24-25 - Chetpet – PV
- 27 - Mannivakkam -PV
- 28-29 - Preparation for PCI, Kodambakkam
- 30 - Journey
- 31 – 3 Feb.- FMA PCI 2022 Meet, Manikandam-Trichy

