



**INM FMA/Pro.Cir.57**

**April 2022**

***“In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” – 1Peter1:3***

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Viva Gesu`!*

*Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!*

We are already immersed in the spiritual atmosphere of the season of lent, all set to enter into the Holy Week, the Easter Triduum and the Paschal celebrations. During these vital days of the Liturgical Year, we celebrate the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. In her circular 1015, Mother General invites us to live the season of lent by starting afresh our journey of holiness in readiness to "go forward with a big and generous heart" (L 47, 12).

On the evening of **Maundy Thursday**, we enter the Easter triduum reliving the first Eucharist in the commemoration of the Last Supper when Christ gave his disciples the testament of his love, not as a remembrance, but as a memorial and as his everlasting presence. In this Sacrament, Jesus substituted the sacrificial victim, the Paschal Lamb, with himself, his Body and Blood to grant us salvation from the slavery of sin and death. It is the evening in which he asks us to love one another by becoming servants to one another as he did in washing the disciples' feet, a gesture that anticipates his sacrificial oblation on the Cross. It was an oblation of service to us all because, with that service of his sacrifice, he redeemed us all.

**Good Friday** is the day of penance, fasting and prayer. Adoring the Cross, we relive the journey of the innocent Lamb sacrificed for our salvation. Before the image of the crucified God, we bring, in prayer, the many, who are crucified in our time: the sick, the poor, the rejected of this world; the "sacrificed lambs," the innocent victims of wars, dictatorships, violence, abortions...Only from Him they can receive comfort and find meaning for their sufferings. In the hour of his supreme sacrifice on the cross he fulfilled the task entrusted to him by the Father and freed every one of us from the power of darkness, of pride and resistance, to being loved by God. The apostle Peter says: ***“By his wounds, we have been healed, by his death we have been reborn”(1 Pt 2: 24).***

**Holy Saturday** is the day of silence lived by the first disciples in mourning and bewilderment, shocked by Jesus' ignominious death. It is also Mary's day: she too lived it in tears, but her heart was full of faith, hope and love. With her soul pierced, the Mother of Jesus had followed her Son along the path of sorrows and remained at the foot of the Cross. And when it all seemed to be over she kept watch, she kept vigil, in expectation and maintaining her hope in the promise of God who raises the dead. Thus, in the world's darkest hour, she became the Mother of believers, the Mother of the Church and a sign of hope. Let us live the spirit of the holy week in the company of Mary our mother.

## IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

We continue to “*Journey with Mary in the Course of the Century (1922-2022) and Beyond*”, during this third year of preparation for the centenary celebration of FMA Presence in our motherland and the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the foundation of our Institute. I invite you to reflect ***on the gift of union with God and communion with our brothers and sisters in the creation of a synodal praxis.***

The normative sources of the Church's teachings, Scripture and Tradition, indicate that from the beginning, there has been a network of ordered relationships that express **truth, goodness and the beauty of creation**, all planned by God, the Master of the Universe. Nevertheless, sin plagues God's plan blinding the hearts of men and women to their **call to union with God**. God, however, rich in mercy, confirms and **renews His covenant** to bring all that has been scattered, back to the path of unity, healing human freedom and directing it to welcome and live **the gift of union with God and communion with our brothers and sisters in creation** which is our common home (*Gen 9:8-17; Ex 19: 24*). In carrying out His plan, God convokes Abraham and his descendants. This assembly ratified the covenant on Mount Sinai, freed the people from slavery and made them important and worthy to speak to God. In the exodus journey, they gather around their God to celebrate His cult and live by His law, **recognizing that they belong to Him alone** (*Deut 5:1-22; Josh 8; Neh 8:1-18*).

The synodal vocation for the People of God was disclosed when in the desert God ordered the census of the tribes of Israel and gave each tribe its place (*Num 1:2*). At the centre of the assembly, **the Lord** was its only **guide and shepherd** and was present to them through the ministry of Moses, with whom the Judges, the Elders, and Levites were associated in a subordinate and 'collegial' way. The assembly of the People of God consisted not only of men but also of women and children and even foreigners. Every time, it is through the partner convoked by him, that He renewed His covenant (*Deut 27: 8*).

The prophets taught the people of God about the need to journey through the hardships of history in **faithfulness to the covenant**. That was why the prophets invited them **to the conversion of their hearts to God and justice in their relationships with their neighbours**, often the poorest, the oppressed, and foreigners, as a tangible witness to God's mercy (*Jer 37: 21; 38:1*). For that to happen, God promised to give them **a new heart and spirit** (*Ezek 11:10*) and to open before His people the way to a new exodus (*Jer 37: 38*). Then He set out **a new covenant, engraved no longer on stone tablets but their hearts** (*Jer 31:31-34*). It was opened out to universal horizons since the Servant of the Lord gathered together the nations (*Is 53*). **It was sealed by the outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord on all the members of His People** (*Joel 3, 1-4*).

Pope Francis reiterates that synodality indicates **'walking together' and listening to one another but above all to the Holy Spirit**. As the Universal Church was about to embark on the synodal journey the Supreme Pontiff, on Saturday 9 October 2022 invoked the Holy Spirit on the People of God so that they will be able to move forward together, listen to one another and discern the times in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity: “In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit.” He says, **“without the Spirit, there is no Synod.”** He noted that at times there is a type of “elitism” among the clergy that distances them from the laity, which makes them the “lord of the house” and not the shepherd. Sometimes we also in our religious community run the risk of distancing ourselves from the members of the educating community, the young people and the lay collaborators and above all from the Sisters of our community.

In this regard we read in Carlo Colli that Don Bosco created in his communities environments in which the family atmosphere was intertwined with the air of God to form a climate of saints; environments that in their style of life and relationships, in the sharing of values, were as close as possible to that desired by God to form 'good Christians and honest citizens'. Don Bosco says that in the family that is born of the 'Spirit', there reigns **charity in bearing with and correcting one another, never**

**complaining about each other; charity in supporting each other, charity, especially in never speaking badly of the members of the community...everyone should always be ready to share joys with others or even be willing to take on another's suffering.** Indeed we need to be fraternal and shun functional relationships. He is particularly concerned with the one who must be considered 'not as superior, but as a friend, brother/sister and father/mother'. This leads to '**synodal praxis**' of living '**participation**' and '**communion**'.

Article 50 of our Constitution states that the '**Family Spirit**' must characterize all our communities...the spirit of **mutual trust and joy**...will be **passed on to the young people and our collaborators**. Living and working together and living the communion of life of the Body of Christ is living and operating 'in communion' as in the first community of Mornese where everyone followed the example of Mother Mazzarello. Don Bosco affirmed that Mother Mazzarello inculcated with her example and with her word to the Sisters who, in their turn, more than superiors, directors or teachers, were tender mothers towards their young students (MACCONO, Santa I, 274).

Pope said that the danger that a **Synodal Praxis** should avoid is the temptation to **complacency**, which says, "we have always done it this way and it is better not to change". The word 'complacency' "is a poison in the life of the Church". The Holy Father stressed that the synodal process should involve everyone in an exciting and engaging effort that can forge a style of communion and participation directed to the mission. The Synodal Praxis, dear Sisters, offers us the opportunity to become a **listening Community** by breaking out of our routine and stopping and listening first to the Spirit in adoration and prayer and then to our brothers and sisters, our young people and women, and the suffering humanity of their hopes, their crises of faith, their need for renewed pastoral life, and now, the 'cry for peace'. **Keeping in mind that God's style is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness**, now is the '*kairos*' for the community. As People of God, we must become a community of closeness **by our very presence bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God and with the culture of care.**

**Let us reflect and share:**

- ✚ How do we *allow the Spirit to work in us and lead us to unity, to listen to one another and discern God's will?*
- ✚ *How can we actualize God's style of closeness, compassion and tenderness in our daily life?*
- ✚ *In what ways can we follow our Saintly Mother's example to be tender mothers, healing broken hearts?*

**CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH -APRIL**

- 10 - Palm Sunday
- 14 - Maundy Thursday
- 15 - Good Friday
- 16 - Holy Saturday
- 17 - Easter Sunday
- 24 - Divine Mercy Sunday
- 25 - St Mark, the Evangelist
- 22 - Earth Day
- 26 - World Feast of Gratitude

## NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Gaspar Celine, the animator and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the provincial council meeting on 3 and 4 March 2022.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham, the animator, and the community of Yercaud for hosting and creating a prayerful atmosphere during the annual spiritual retreat II and animation, from 5 to 12 March 2022. Hearty congratulations to Sr Puliyani Lucy and Sr Rayappan Samala Elisa for the efficient presentation of the Finance Policy and Sr Anthony Raj Christina for the presentation of the Education Policy of the Province.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Kunnathu Anna, the Animator, and the community of Auxilium College, for hosting the meeting of the Centenary Committees on 20 March, and congratulations to Sr Antonyraj Christina, the General Coordinator for the Centenary Celebrations, for organizing the same. We also thank her for organizing effectively the zoom meet on 31 March from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. regarding preparations for the centenary celebrations, and congratulations to all the coordinators of the centenary committees of the Province for the presentation of the action plans.
- ✚ Thanks a million, to Sr Potteparambil Stella INC, the Coordinator of the Centenary Renewal Committee, for the online formative session on the theme: ‘Salesian Charism sown and grown on Indian soil’ by Mother Caterina Mania, presented by Sr Molly Elizabeth ING on 30 March from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

## WORLD FEAST OF GRATITUDE 2022

As you already know, Sr María del Rosario García Ribas, Vicar General of our Institute, has presented to all the FMA and the Educating Communities of the Five Continents, the theme of the **World Feast of Gratitude 2022** and the indications for the preparation, implementation and celebration. Her letter expresses the significance of the event: *"As part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Institute, we would like to thank the Lord of Life for the generous" yes "of our Mother, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, who lives the service of animation and governance with so much faith and availability. In a complex world context, marked by many challenges concerning health, political and social aspects, we participate in the pain and hope of a large part of humanity that seeks peace and wants to continue to generate life"*.

The World Feast of Gratitude will take place **on 24, 25, 26 April 2022 in Turin, Mornese, and Nizza**, the land of the origins of the FMA Institute, in the Piedmont Province of *Mary Help of Christians* (IPI).

### **The theme:** *They are my Daughters*

It is drawn from the dream of Don Bosco who said he found himself in Turin in Piazza Vittorio, where he saw a large number of girls asking him for help. He did not

want to listen to them. But he saw a «Lady all resplendent in her face who said to him: *“Take care of them, they are my daughters”!* (Cronistoria I, 24-25). **The presence of Mary**, the inspirer of the FMA Institute, Mother and Teacher, Help of Christians who accompanies the FMA in life and history, is the guiding thread of the journey of preparation and realization of the feast.

*sono mie figlie*

In preparation for the Feast of Gratitude, the IPI Province proposes a **three-week itinerary**, which highlights the significant coincidence of the feast with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the FMA Institute (1872-2022). The itinerary is marked by three keywords, one for each charismatic place of the origins and by three charismatic phrases which, recalling the presence of Mary, help to walk the path: **Call, Identity and Accompaniment**. A **biblical passage** associated with each week invites us to meet the extraordinary humanity of three women of the Old Testament, **Esther, Ruth and Debora**, to contemplate the traits embodied by Mary. Mary is active in the history of Israel and of all humanity and intervenes every day in the history of each of her daughters with a **presence** that evokes beauty, strength and delicacy.



**The logo** of the feast vividly recalls the origins of the history of the FMA Institute and some essential aspects of Salesian spirituality.

The preparation process, the initiatives, and the event can be followed by reading the [Letter from the Vicar General - World Feast of Gratitude 2022](#) sent to you already accessing the web page [www.festadelgrazie.org](http://www.festadelgrazie.org) to fully experience the World Feast of Gratitude.

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

We rejoice and thank God that our Mother General, Chiara Cazzuola has nominated Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose as the sixth Provincial of the Province of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bangalore. She had been the first Provincial of Guwahati from 2000- 2006, and from 2008 - 2021 served the FMA Institute as the Visiting General Councilor. She had made Canonical Visitation of the INK province twice, has done the Process of Discernment for the consultation of the Provincials of the Province, and has made several short visits for various occasions and celebrations. She is an efficient formator and an able administrator, a patient listener, a kind advisor, and a gentle mother to all who approach her. She is person-oriented, friendly, pleasant, affectionate and has a keen interest in the integral growth of everyone. She has a strong sense of belonging to the institute and is deeply rooted in Salesian charism and Spirituality. Our hearty congratulations to our dear Sr Lucy Rose, the Provincial elect, for her generous 'yes' to the mandate, and we assure her of our prayerful and sisterly support.

Sincere congratulations to Sr Asirvatham Anthony Amali who received the gold medal in M.Phil Mathematics during the 93<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Day held at Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai on 19 March 2022.

Hearty congratulations to Sr Arockiasamy Celine Mary for securing third place in M.Ed. from the St Joseph's Women College of Education, Jolarpettai.

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Mgr Francis Kalist (64) the Bishop of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh as the new Archbishop of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. As we congratulate him we offer our prayerful wishes to our pastor.

## PRAYER REQUEST FOR PEACE

On March 25, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis consecrated the entire humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The event started at 5 pm (Italian time) in St Peter's Basilica, on 25 March the feast of the Annunciation. The Pope's Act of Consecration came in response to the war in Ukraine and at the request of the Blessed Virgin Mary made in her apparition at Fatima on 13 July 1917. He said that the renewal of the Act of Consecration was meant to consecrate the

Church and all the whole of humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine, to Mary's Immaculate Heart. "If we want the world to change, then first our hearts must change" was the central message of Pope Francis. Our Blessed Mother Mary invites us to return to the source of our life, to the Lord, "who is the ultimate remedy against fear and emptiness in life." Joining hands with the universal and local Church, let us continue to pray incessantly for peace and solidarity in the world.

## **SMA GENERAL CHAPTER**

The Fifth General Chapter of Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix (SMA) will be held from 17 to 24 April 2022 at their Generalate, Madhavaram, Chennai, on the theme "Journey towards deepening our faith". We wish Sr Josephine Selvi, the Mother General and all the Sisters a fruitful and purposeful chapter experience and we assure them of our continuous prayers.

## **COURSES AND SEMINARS**

- ✓ Sr Savariappan Irene Novila Rani participated in the Formators' Meet, 21 and 22 March 2022 organized by TNPCRI.
- ✓ Sr Rajendiran Selvarani attended the General Body Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Catholic Youth Movement (TCYM) on 27 March 2022 at TMSSS, Trichy.

## **II PHASE OF THE SECOND NOVITIATE**

Sr Lawrance Daisy and Sr Paul Ezhilarasi will be making their II Phase of the Second Novitiate from 19 April to 14 May 2022, along with their two companions of INT Province. They will have sessions and reflections on FMA Constitutions from 19 to 24 April at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam, Trichy; Program in preparation for final vows from 26 April to 15 May at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore and come back to Trichy to make their Annual Spiritual Retreat along with the novices from 16 to 23 May 2022. We wish you dear Sisters a profound experience of the journey toward irrevocable decision and assure you of our prayers and support.

## **HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES**

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during March 2022:

- ✠ Sr Kurusinkal Alphonsa and the Sisters of Guwahati Province, at the demise of Sr Edattukaran Mary (76) on 1 March 2022.
- ✠ Sr Susai Josephine Rani at the demise of her younger brother Mr Alphonse Raj (51) on 6 March
- ✠ Sr Pudota Mary Kirubagari at the passing away of her elder brother Mr William (76) on 13 March.
- ✠ Postulant Jenifer (INT) at the demise of her father Mr S.Sesuraj (58) on 19 March.
- ✠ Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, the Provincial elect of INK, at the demise of her mother Mrs Mary Thomas (99) on 26 March.
- ✠ Sr Savarimuthu Alessandra at the passing away of her niece Ms Sudha (51) on 28 March.

## **LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- APRIL 2022**

- 06 † Sr Antoinette Aloysius (2014)
- † Sr Elizabeth David (2021)
- 11 † Sr Annie Ward (1976)
- 16 † Sr Regina Sindhuraj (2021)

- 18 † Sr Alzira Albuquerque (2002)  
20 † Sr Consiglia Tarricone (1990)  
26 † Sr Aurelia Bossi (1985) and Sr Margaret D'Souza (1954)  
28 † Sr Solomon Philomena (2020)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS -APRIL 2022

- 02-03 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam  
12 - Submission of Accounts, Kodambakkam  
18-20 - Evaluation and Planning of Apostolic Plan & Plan and Project, Yercaud  
21-28 - Annual Retreat III, Yercaud  
28 - Animation for Retreatants, Yercaud  
30 - Centenary Renewal Animation, online

Amidst the darkness of today's gloomy situation joy and light breaks through with the **Easter Vigil** and the festive singing of the *Alleluia*. It will be an encounter in faith with the Risen Christ, and the joy of Easter will continue throughout the following fifty days, until the coming of the Holy Spirit. ***He who was crucified has risen!*** All questions and uncertainties, hesitations and fears are dispelled by this revelation. The Resurrection gives us the certainty that good always triumphs over evil, that life always conquers death. It promises us life beyond death and forgiveness beyond sins. As we celebrate Easter this year in the context of pandemics and war, let us remind ourselves that Christ's Cross is like a beacon that indicates the port to ships that are still afloat on stormy seas. Christ's Cross is a sign of hope that does not disappoint. It tells us that not even one tear, not one sigh is lost in God's plan. Let us ask the risen Lord to grant us the grace of serving him and being witnesses of His love and mercy. The flame of hope was always kept burning in the broken, maternal heart of Mary. Let us ask her to help us also to welcome the Easter proclamation of the resurrection in its fullness and to incarnate it in our concrete daily lives.

*I wish you all a Fervent Holy Week and a Happy EASTER!*

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial**

**HAPPY  
EASTER**



# Itinerary of the Provincial

APRIL & MAY 2022

- 01 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 02 -03 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 05 - 07 - St.Mary's Vellore, PV
- 08-10 - Arni, PV
- 11 - Anmarudai, PV
- 12 - Jawadhi Hills, PV
- 13-17 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 18-20 - Evaluation and Planning: Apostolic Plan 2022-2023
- 21- 28 - Annual Retreat III, Yercaud
- 28 - Animation to Retreatants, Yercaud
- 29 - Salem, PV
- 30 - Yercaud, PV

## MAY - 2022

- 02 – 09 - Annual Retreat IV, Yercaud
- 11 – 12 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam

