



**INM FMA/Pro.Cir.56**

**March 2022**

***“Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning”***

***- (Joel 2:12)***

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Viva Gesu`!*

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

The month of March is marked with a significant event of the liturgical Calendar. On 2<sup>nd</sup> we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the paschal mystery of Easter, Christ's victory over death. For our Lenten journey in 2022, Our Holy Father Pope Francis invites us to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: ***“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all”*** (Gal 6:9-10). Saint Paul speaks to us of a *kairós*: an opportune time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. Lent is certainly such an opportune time for conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing, and sharing goodness. Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his work (cf. *Jas* 1:21) and bears fruit in our lives. The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord (cf. *1 Pet* 1:21), says Pope Francis, because only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ (cf. *Heb* 12:2) will we be able to respond to the Apostle's appeal, “Let us never grow tired of doing good” (Gal 6:9). He further highlights it by recommending us not to grow tired of praying, of uprooting evil from our lives, of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, of fighting against concupiscence and of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours. May our Blessed Mother Mary accompany us with her maternal presence, so that this season of conversion may bring forth fruits of eternal salvation!

### **IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

We continue to *“Journey with Mary in the Course of the Centenary (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 ***synodal praxis at all levels as a way to Christian perfection.***

The disciples of Jesus were called together as an assembly and it is a synonym for the ecclesial community. Saint John Chrysostom writes that the Church is a “name standing for 'walking together'”. He explains that the Church is the assembly convoked, to give God thanks and glory like a choir, a harmonic reality which holds everything together, since, by their reciprocal and ordered relations,

those who compose it converge in common mind and communion. Within the broad ecclesial horizon, inspired by **the principle of participation** of all in the life of the Church, we as baptized and consecrated persons, ought to make our community life a **synodal praxis** at all levels: local educating community and province educating community (cf. *Vademecum* no.11). Pope Francis affirms that the synodality of the Church is achieved, through communion, **participation**, and mission. He also points out the dangers it can run into as well as the opportunities it offers.

Living communion according to the standard of Jesus' new commandment means walking together in history as the People of the God of a new covenant, **in a way that fits the gift received** (cf. *John* 15:12-15). Each one is called to live in a manner that befits the follower of Christ, "**let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus**" (Phil 2:5) and carry out our responsibility putting to full use all the gifts and talents God has endowed us with. For each of us has received a special grace, so, like good stewards, responsible for all these different graces of God, we ought to put ourselves at the service of others (cf. 1Pet 4:10).

**The New Testament** uses a specific term to express the power Jesus received from the Father to grant salvation, which He exercises over all creatures in the power of the Holy Spirit: '**authority**'. **It consists in imparting the grace that makes us "children of God"** (cf. *John* 1:12). So too in the religious community which is part of the ecclesial community, we are called to impart the grace that makes everyone the 'children of God', **bring out the best in others**. The Lord's 'authority' is expressed in the Church through the variety of spiritual gifts or charisms the Spirit shares out among the People of God for the upbuilding of the one Body of Christ (cf. LG 32). In exercising them we need to respect an objective, an order so that they can develop in harmony and **bear the fruit they are meant to bear for the good of all** (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30). The Apostles have the first place among them, with a special and pre-eminent role being attributed by Jesus to Simon Peter (cf. *Mt.* 16:18). They are entrusted with the ministry of guiding the Church in fidelity to the *depositum fidei* (1 Timothy 6:20). But the term 'gift' also evokes the gratuitous and varying character of the free initiative of the Spirit, **who grants each one gift with a view of the general good** (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 29-30), always in terms of mutual submission and service (1 Corinthians 12:25), since the highest gift, the one that regulates them all, is **love** (1 Corinthians 12:31).

In the event of 'the apostolic Council of Jerusalem' (cf. *Acts* 15, and also *Galatians* 2:1-10) we can see a synodal praxis coming into being, in which the apostolic Church lives its vocation in view of the mission. In view of the important and controversial question facing them, the community at Antioch decides to consult "the Apostles and Elders" (15:2) of the Church in Jerusalem and sends Paul and Barnabas there. The community in Jerusalem, the Apostles and the Elders promptly meet to examine the situation. Paul and Barnabas explain what has happened. **A lively and open discussion follows. They listen particularly to Peter's authoritative witness and profession of faith.** We note that everyone plays an active part, though with varied roles and contributions. We ought to promote **family-like dialogue** (Art.50).

To create a positive impact on young people and society, our communities should become credible. Carlo Colli asserts that to be credible and earn trust, **coherence, rectitude, and life witness** are necessary. Don Bosco says, "it is very important that the superiors be the first to possess and practice those virtues they must instil in their Sisters". This is a duty that Mother Mazzarello deems compelling. She says: "**If I always give good example to my Sisters, things will always go well; if I love Jesus with my whole heart, I will know how to make Him loved by the others as well**" (MM L 9:2). From this conviction come her heartfelt recommendations to good example on the part of the Sisters who are called to carry out the service of authority (cf. MM L.14). It is of interest for us to emphasize the motivations adopted by Mother Mazzarello to justify her recommendations: "You must be a model of virtue in all things...if you want the boat to sail well and if you want the daughters to have respect and

confidence in you." She says, "the things taught by example remain more impressed on the heart and do a lot more good". It was said of Mother Mazzarello: "She was all charity toward the Sisters without any partiality, to the point that **each of the Sisters thought she was the most loved**". If she preferred anyone, it was the neediest one, the most full of defects, and the sick so that in the house of our Lady no one should feel marginalized or forgotten. Carlo Colli reinstates that life witness and impartial affection open everyone's heart to esteem and confidence. It will be to make our faces and houses shine with beauty and freshness; **to intensify a sincere, cordial, and collaborative fraternity**; to colour **our mission with genuineness and pleasantness**; becoming more and more attractive signs of a Love that generates and regenerates (Cf. Circular no.1014).

Dear Sisters, Courage! Let us make every effort to become more and more credible, earn trust by our coherence, rectitude, and life witness, build communion through participation, enhance teamwork with the spirit of collaborative fraternity and be fruitful in our apostolic endeavour. May Mary Most Holy and our founders help us in this arduous journey of Christian perfection with the synodal praxis, marching towards Salesian Sanctity alongside young people!

Let us reflect and share:

- ✚ *Can I say that my every action is inspired by the principle of participation to value the contribution of others in view of the common good? What qualities do I have to cultivate in me for a family-like dialogue with my Sisters?*
- ✚ *What am I doing to generously put into full use all the gifts received from God for apostolic fruitfulness?*
- ✚ *How do I give good example - life witness to my Sisters, lay collaborators and young people in the service that I am called to render?*

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH -MARCH

- 02 - Ash Wednesday
- 08 - International Women's Day
- 19 - St Joseph
- 24 - Sts Mark and Timothy
- 25 - Annunciation of the Lord

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Fernando Mary Ann, the Delegate of Sri Lanka, for organizing the online recollection and animation for the juniors of Sri Lanka on 3 and 4 February and the animators meet on 23 and 24 February 2022 at Colombo.
- ✚ Congratulations to Sr Maria Louis Sirumalar and Sr Maidan Jaya Priya, the VIDES Coordinators for conducting the VIDES General Body Meet on 13 February and thanks to Sr Peddineeni Mary Philomena and the community of Pallikonda for the hospitality extended to them.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora, the Provincial Councillor, for organizing the online emergency meet for the animators and all the Sisters of the province on the theme: legal issues regarding the homes for children on 13 February.

- ✚ Millions of thanks to Sr Antonyraj Christina, the academic coordinator for organising the meeting for the Headmistresses and Principals of our Schools on 19 February and to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Auxilium Home Katpadi for hosting it.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Gaspar Celine, the animator and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the provincial council meeting on 8 and 9 and Juniors' Recollection and Animation on 26 and 27 February.

## **TWIN JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

In this graceful centenary year of the arrival of our pioneers to our motherland India, it was so exciting to celebrate the Diamond and Golden Jubilee Event held on 20 February at Auxilium College, Katpadi. It was indeed a precious occasion to celebrate the fidelity of our diamond jubilarian dear Sr Arul Josephine and the golden jubilarians Sr Agatha Irudayanathan, Sr Clara Devaraj, Sr Jacintha Lourdunathan, Sr May Santiagu, Sr Philo Sebastian and Sr Regina Sequeira, after a significant number of years in their life as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. As a province family, we were privileged to thank God for His unfathomable love for them and honour them for their joyous dedication to God for sixty and fifty years in a mission of love for his people.

The well-animated morning prayer facilitated the Sisters to recall with gratitude the precious gift of a Salesian vocation and honour the jubilarians with the auspicious things which are significant in our culture. At 9.15 am the jubilarians were led triumphantly to the auditorium by the melodious band of the young Sisters of Auxilium College for felicitations and cultural programme. At Noon the thanksgiving Eucharist was solemnized by Most Rev. Dr A. M. Chinnappa SDB DD, the archbishop emeritus, Madras-Mylapore. I owe my gratitude to our dear bishop who graced the occasion with his fatherly presence, presided the solemn sung mass with fervour, imparted God's copious blessings, and expressed his appreciation to our Sisters for their selfless service to the poor youth.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, Vice Provincial, for her meticulous planning and execution of the event; to Sr Kunnathu Anna, the animator and the community of Auxilium College, Katpadi who hosted the celebration with their ever-ready availability. Their sacrifice and hard work made the day colourful and joyful.

Hearty congratulations to the community of Anmarudai for the significant animation of morning prayer, to the community of Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur for prayerfully animating the Eucharistic celebration, to the community of Auxilium Home for the angelic choir, to the community of St Mary's Vellore for the beautiful flower arrangement and the backdrop, to the community of Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur, for the felicitation song, to the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi for the rhythmic dance of the candidates, to Sr Victor Juliana Agnes and Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai for the colourful videos on the life of our jubilarians. May God bless you dear Sisters for your sincere efforts and contribution to make the day a truly memorable one for all, especially the jubilarians.

## **HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!**

I am happy to communicate to you the names of the newly appointed National General Coordinator and the National Coordinators of the different areas of animation of FMA India with effect from March 2022.

General Coordinator	- Sr Saminathan Clara INC
Coordinator for Education	- Sr Antony Raj Mary Josephine INM
NDF Coordinator	- Sr Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi INT
Formation	- Sr M.Sagaya Sangita Rani INK

Social Communication	- Sr Varapragasam Maria Rajeswari INK
YaR	- Sr Parmar Manisha INB
Youth Pastoral	- Sr KharbihkhiewWismary INS
Mission ad/inter gentes	- Sr Adaphro Rosemary ING
Salesian Family	- Sr Lamare Mary INS

Hearty congratulations to all these our Sisters for their generous availability to shoulder the responsibility of animating the FMA India and assure them of our prayers and sisterly collaboration.

## PRAYER REQUEST FOR PEACE AND SOLIDARITY

Our Mother General has communicated the news about the FMA Communities of Ukraine-Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa- and invited the educating communities to pray and to undertake initiatives of peace and solidarity. From the latest news received from these community animators on 24 February 2022, we know that our Sisters are safe. They are experiencing the suffering, anxiety, and uncertainty of the population in this dramatic moment of the nation entrusting everyone to the protection of Mary Help of Christians. They thank the FMA and the educating communities of the world for their closeness and prayer.

*La Madre* requests us to support our Sisters and the people with some concrete initiatives: praying the Rosary together with the explicit intention of asking for the gift of peace; the personal and community commitment to live an attitude of peace and benevolence, of reciprocal tolerance and acceptance. She also writes, “When Don Bosco composed the prayer “*O Mary, Most Powerful Virgin*”, he called it “the prayer of difficult times”. Faithful to his inspiration, we can invoke with faith the ‘powerful’ intercession of Mary, to free humanity from the danger of wars wherever there are burning fires and help to appreciate and build the priceless gift of peace”.

As I thank you for your earnest prayers, I request you dear Sisters to continue to storm heavens for peace in the world and the special intention of our Province.

## HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ Sr Lazar Jackuline Mary at the demise of her father Mr Lazar (78) on 4 February
- ✠ The Provincial and confreres of IND Province on the death of Fr Eanthanamkuzhiyil Michael (68) on 4 February
- ✠ The Provincial and confreres of INS Province on the death of Bro Paul Mojo (102) on 9 February 2022
- ✠ Sr Dharmalingam Jayaseeli at the demise of her father Mr Dharmalingam (82) on 15 February
- ✠ The Vice Provincial Sr John Annie and the Sisters of INK Province at the demise of our dear Sr George Elizabeth (90) on 21 February
- ✠ Sr Maidan Jaya Priya at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr Jeya Shankar (38) on 25 February
- ✠ Fr Provincial and confreres of INC at the passing away of Bro Sushanto Biswas SDB on 26 February.

## LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- MARCH 2022

- 09 † Sr Arokianathan M. Josephine (2021)
- 10 † Sr Marie Dulla Cardozo (2004)
- 24 † Sr Castelli Giovanna (1995)
- 26 † Sr Cazzuli Eugenia (1973)
- 29 † Sr Anthoni Philomena (2017)
- 30 † SrVersino Eugenia (1951)
- † Sr Gonsalves Dorothy (2019)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS -MARCH 2022

- 1 - Online 'Project Mornese' begins
- 5 -12 - Annual Retreat II, Yercaud
- 5 - Women's Day Celebration, Kodambakkam
- 12 - Animation for Retreatants, Yercaud

On 19 March we are celebrating with joy the feast of our great St Joseph. The mention of St Joseph conjures up thoughts of a holy man, the spouse of Mary, the earthly father of Jesus and a hard-working carpenter. Although he is one of the most-recognized saints, little is known about him. In the Bible, he is referred to as a "just man," which was considered a high compliment in his time. It also meant that he was willing and open to do whatever God asked of him, including taking Mary as his wife, despite her unusual and blessed pregnancy (Matthew 1:19). He also loved and cared for Jesus. Heeding God's directions which came through a series of dreams and messages from angels, Joseph protected his family. Pope Francis in his recent apostolic letter titled "*Patris Corde*", written in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, says: "we are able to see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who exercise patience and offer hope daily. These people resemble St Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who played an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

St Joseph is known as the patron saint of the Universal Church, virgins, happy death, families, fathers, expectant mothers, explorers, pilgrims, travellers, immigrants, home sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers and working people. Many institutions, cities and countries are dedicated to him. Let us entrust ourselves and all our institutions and our recipients to the paternal patronage of St Joseph to protect and guide us.

*I wish each one of you a fervent season of Lent,  
A very happy feast of St Joseph, in particular,  
to our houses at Arni and Mosavadi,  
and to those who bear his name !*

*Yours affectionately,*

*Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA  
Provincial**



**HAPPY FEAST**

# Itinerary of the Provincial

MARCH 2022

- 01-02 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 03-04 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 05 - 12 - Annual Retreat II, Yercaud
- 13 - Erode, PV
- 14-15 - Dharmapuri, PV
- 16 - Michaelpuram, PV
- 17 - Mosavadi, PV
- 18 - Polur
- 19 - Yellagiri Hills, PV
- 20-24 - Auxilium College, PV
- 25-26 - Auxilium Home-Katpadi, PV
- 27-29 - Sacred Heart Home-Katpadi, PV
- 30-31 - Provincial Office, Kodambakkam

