



INM FMA/Pro.Cir.58

May 2022

***“On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.” – Jn 2:1***

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù!

Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

Uniting ourselves with Mary we begin the beautiful month of May which is radiant with Easter joy. We thank our heavenly Father for the unique gift of our mother and protector who is the perfect model of love, charity, understanding and compassion. “Mary Most Holy was the inspirer of our Institute and continues to be its Mother and Teacher. We are therefore a religious family that belongs entirely to Mary.” (C 4).

With joy and filial love, we celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians on 24 May. Don Bosco sees in Mary the founder and inspirer of his work. The precious memory that he left us regarding devotion to Mary's Help of Christians is two-fold. In the first place, Don Bosco wanted our Institute to be a living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. On 5 August 1872 he gave the name to his female religious family that must belong totally to Mary: ***“Have as your glory your title of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and often think that your Institute must be the living monument of Don Bosco's gratitude to the Great Mother of God, invoked under the title of Help of Christians”*** (Cronistoria I, 306). The second springs from the singular experience he had on his last visit to Nizza Monferrato on August 23, 1885. After the new Sisters had received their habits, and the young women had entered the Novitiate, Don Bosco, moved to tears, spoke to the Superiors who had gathered there repeating several times: ***“I want to tell you that Our Lady is here, among you! Our Lady walks in this house and covers it with her mantle.”*** (Cronistoria V, 52).

Mother General in her circular 1017 recalls another significant event of the foundation of the Institute 150 years ago. On the eve of the feast of Mary Help of Christians, 23 May 1872, **the first group of young women** who had already lived with Mary Domenica Mazzarello in the "House of the Immaculate" were on **transfer to the school at Borgo Alto** where Main had the vision and heard the prophetic voice: “I entrust them to you!” Mother Mary had prepared the house for her daughters! (cf. Cronistoria I, 282-286). La Madre has promised that in May, June, and July, some modules will be sent to us which will be useful in our preparation for the event of the 150 Years of the Institute and also an outline for the celebration of a **New ‘Yes’ on 5 August 2022**.

Let us experience the motherly presence of Mary amidst us in our houses and live as her true daughters. Let us learn from her motherhood to generate new life and to be like her as a ‘helper’, especially among young people (cf. C 4).

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 150th year of the foundation of our Institute. I invite you to reflect on **Synodal Praxis** as an invitation to **rediscover the original and deep significance of our Baptism**.

The **People of God are united by Baptism** and “if by the will of Christ some are made teachers, pastors and dispensers of mysteries on behalf of others yet all share a true equality with regard to the dignity and the activity common to all the Faithful **for the building up of the Body of Christ**” (LG, no. 32). Therefore, all the baptized, the participants in Christ’s priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions by “exercising the variety and ordered richness of their charisms, their vocations and their ministries,” [15] are **active subjects of evangelization**, both individually and as the entire people of God (*Vademecum No.12*). God our Father calls us to live our baptismal consecration wholeheartedly consecrating us by the gift of the Spirit (Cons. Art.5). In fact, our vocation in the Church is to proclaim our will to live for the glory of God by the evangelization of young people and women, walking together with them in a 'synodal style' on the road that leads to holiness, fullness of life, even amidst difficulties and social constraints.

In the formula of the religious profession, we say, "Heavenly Father, you consecrated me in baptism and now, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you call me to follow Jesus Christ more closely, in order to share more intimately in his saving mission in the Church." We are therefore like all the baptized, participants in Christ's royal priesthood, prophetic- teaching, and kingly-serving functions within the Church, by ‘exercising the variety and ordered richness of their charisms, their vocations and their ministries’, are active subjects of evangelization both as individuals and as the entire People of God as *Vademecum* explicates. Every baptized person must assume the mission of the Church and live it according to the call one has received.

Synodal praxis invites us to **rediscover the original and deep significance of our baptism**. It is a most normative event in our life! The Church brings forth a child in baptism. She gives birth to a new child. The Church is the Mother and God is the Father. It is a most joyful new birth, a spiritual birth. Our supernatural rebirth by water and the Holy Spirit gave us an **identity as a child of God the Father, redeemed by God the Son, and now a dwelling place for God the Holy Spirit**. Through baptism, our 'old self' died and we rose to new life with Jesus! **Thus, baptism is our Easter**, an anticipation of the one at our earthly death when we will rise to eternal life. We should be willing to give up our evil inclination and adhere to God wholeheartedly shunning every occasion to sin that leads to darkness.

Through our Christian vocation, we enjoy '*communion ecclesiology*' as a **social effect**; with our relationship with Christ, we also enjoy '*communion with the divine*' as a **personal effect**. Two consequences flow from this communion. 1. By virtue of our baptism we *participate* in the threefold, priestly, prophetic and kingly, function. 2. We receive the *call* as laity or cleric or religious and **exercise rights and duties** pertinent to our vocation in varying degrees of communion. Carlo Colli states that article 5 of our Constitutions 'has the merit of gathering and hierarchizing in a dense and calibrated theological synthesis **the different aspects of the vocation of the FMA**' in the Church. This explains **our duty** in keeping with our vocation: to follow Christ more closely, **to become among the young, a sign and expression of His foreseeing love**. Don Bosco says, 'the purpose of this society is to gather its ecclesiastical members, clerics, and also laypeople to **perfect themselves, imitating the virtues of our divine Saviour, especially in charity towards the poor young people** (MB V, 933). So, we understand the need to pursue our holiness and work ardently for the salvation of the young people and the women of our days.

Dear Sisters, let us have the courage to follow the example of our founders, Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. In the plurality of today’s social and cultural situations let us assume the qualities of **'adaptability, audacity and creativity that urged our founders to go to meet the young'**.

Here we need to exercise as Carlo Colli explains the logic of the '*da mihi animas*'. It is nothing but St Paul's "I became all to all" to save someone at any cost. "I do all for the Gospel to become a participant with them" (1 Cor 9:22).

To Jesus, baptism was a **commitment to and immersion in the cause of the Kingdom, for God's people at a great cost to himself even at the risk of his life**. We need to question ourselves, our way of being and doing and our attitude and approach to fulfilling the cost of discipleship. Baptism makes us disciples, to shed what is not of God, to renounce Satan and his diabolic action that cause death culture and determine to spread the beauty of life and the fragrance of holiness and grace in and around us through our simple lifestyle.

Let us reflect and share:

- ✚ How do I live my baptismal consecration, to die to my 'old self ' and put on Christ the giver of 'new life'?
- ✚ How can I live the logic of '*da mihi animas*' and "*I became all to all*" to save someone at any cost?
- ✚ What effort do I make to become among the young and the women, a sign and expression of God's foreseeing love on daily basis?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH - MAY

- 01 - St Joseph the Worker
- 06 - St Dominic Savio
- 09 - Birthday of St Maria Domenica Mazzarello
- 13 - St Maria Domenica Mazzarello/ Our Lady of Fatima
- 24 - Mary Help of Christians
- 29 - Ascension of the Lord
- 31 - Visitation of our Lady

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Thanks a million to Sr Gaspar Celine, the animator and the community of Kodambakkam for hosting the provincial council on 2 and 3 April, and the local administrators during the submission of accounts on 12 April 2022.
- ✚ A note of thanks to Sr Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham, the animator, and the community of Yercaud for hosting the Evaluation and Drafting of Apostolic Plan from 18 to 20 April and the Annual Spiritual Retreat III and animation from 21 to 28 April 2022. We owe our gratitude to Fr Joe Xavier SJ, consultant, NDF, for his able guidance and enlightenment to evaluate and draft the Apostolic Plan, 2022-2027, of our Province and to Fr Joseph Jayaraj SDB, the retreat preacher for his innovative spiritual animation, integrating psychological techniques with spirituality. Sincere congratulations to Sr Puliyani Lucy, Sr Rayappan Samala Elisa and Sr Irudayam Nirmal Rose for presenting the Finance Policy and Sr Anthony Raj Christina for the Education Policy of the Province.

- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Sahayaraj Sangita INK, the Centenary Renewal Committee member, for animating the online formative session on the theme: ‘Salesian Charism sown and grown on Indian soil’ through Sr Nancy Pereira.

RENEWAL COURSE

Sr Alexander Lilly Rose participated in the course ‘Transformative Learning in Formation’ at Don Bosco Renewal Centre (DBRC), Bangaluru from 4 to 13 April 2022.

GOOD NEWS TO THE SALESIAN FAMILY

We Rejoice in the Lord and thank Him along with the entire Salesian family that we will be having one more Salesian Saint, Blessed Artemide Zatti, a Salesian Coadjutor. On 9 April 2022, during the Audience granted to His Eminence Most Reverend Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the same Congregation to promulgate the Decree concerning the miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Artemide Zatti, professed layperson of the Society of St Francis de Sales. Blessed Artemide Zatti was born on 12 October 1880 in Boretto (Italy) and died on 15 March 1951 in Viedma (Argentina). The inexplicable healing that paves the way for the canonization of Artemide Zatti took place in the Philippines in August 2016 and concerns a man who had suffered an ischemic stroke, accompanied by further complications. Blessed Zatti will therefore be proclaimed as a Saint by the universal Church. The date of the canonization will be decided by the Supreme Pontiff in the course of an ordinary consistory. Through his intercession let us pray for all the sick people and health workers.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

Hearty congratulations to our dear Sisters Sr Lawrence Rachael Monica Daisy and Sr Paul Ezhilarasi for their joyful ‘Yes’ to God’s call and their irrevocable decision to follow Him till the end of their life. They will be making their **Final Commitment** on 25 May 2022 at Auxilium College, Katpadi.

I am happy to communicate to you that in this centenary year of the arrival of six pioneering missionaries to India, our Province is blessed with six **first professions**. Our second-year novices, Sr Anthony Dass Arockia Marial, Sr Anthonysamy Dayana Roselin, Sr Arockia Raj Sowmiya Vinclate, Sr Immanuvel Celcia, Sr Joseph Santhanaraj Christina Jenifer, Sr Standly Andrew Mary Margaret along with Sr Arockia Dassraja Nirmala, Sr Arokkiya Raj Ebseeba Lourdemary, Sr Beniston Susmitha, Sr Jesu Raja Sheeba, Sr Tamil Selvan Tensiya and Sr Victor Maria Kilodiya of INT Province will be making their first profession on 24 May 2022 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam, Trichy.

Our Postulants Divyanathan Helen Gracy, Lourdunathan Sujitha Jayaseeli, Sagaya Lourdunathan Akila and Victor Sharmila along with John Kennedy Derina, Sesuraj Jenifer and Arockiasamy Augusta of INT will be going to the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Trichy on 13 May. They will make their annual retreat and enter the novitiate on 23 May 2022.

The **temporary professed Sisters** of our Province will make the renewal of their vows on 22 May at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi and those who are in Sri Lanka on 30 May at Negombo.

As we congratulate these courageous young women who have committed themselves to the Lord to live the Salesian religious life, let us accompany them with our prayers.

On this happy occasion, I express my gratitude to the animators and formators who accompanied these postulants, novices and the temporary professed Sisters to discern God’s will and stood by their side to pursue their call, particularly, Sr Cruz Michael, the Novice Formator and the community of Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam, Trichy, and Sr Devadoss Margaret, the animator and community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, and all the animators, past and present, who accompanied Sr Daisy and Sr Ezhilarasi, all set to make their final commitment.

A special thanks to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret and the Sisters for guiding them during the II Phase of II Novitiate from 19 to 24 April and will continue their services during their Annual Retreat from 16 to 23 May 2022.

Hearty congratulations to all the Sisters who keep the anniversary of their first profession on 24 May.

SMA SUPERIOR GENERAL

The Fifth General Chapter of the Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix (SMA) was celebrated from 17 to 24 April 2022, on the theme “Journey towards deepening our faith”, at Madhavaram, Chennai. Hearty congratulations to Sr Josephine Selvi SMA who has been re-elected on 24 April 2022 as Superior General of the Congregation for a second term. We assure her and all the newly elected councillors of our sisterly prayers.

FMA HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS NETWORK (ISS-FMA)

ISS-FMA is designed to undertake a reflection on higher education, the animation and coordination of possible processes to improve the quality of the Institutions of Higher Studies as well as indicate concrete steps (lines of actions, policies, pastoral care, publications, exchanges, training of teachers, research) to strengthen the already existing network and plan of the IV World Meeting of ISS-FMA, which will be held during the six-year period 2022-2027. The gathering of the Principals/Responsible Persons of all the ISS-FMA is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen communion and a sense of belonging, to establish a network of collaboration between people and between institutions. I am happy to communicate that Sr Kaniyampady Molly Elizabeth ING, from Auxilium College Harpur, Udalguri, Assam, has been appointed as the referral person for the Node-2 which comprises Asia [PCI - CIAO] and Africa [CIAM]. She will act as a bridge between the six nodal points of the network and the youth ministry sector. We assure her of our prayerful wishes and sisterly collaboration.

SALESIAN COOPERATORS PROMISE DAY

Let us praise and thank the Lord and our Blessed Mother for the 17 Aspirant Salesian Cooperators who will be making their promise on 1 May 2022 at Don Bosco Shrine, Ayanavaram, Chennai, in the presence of Fr K. M. Jose SDB, INM Provincial, Mr T. Asservatham, Provincial Coordinator for the Salesian Co-operators of Chennai and me. As we warmly welcome them into our Salesian Family let us also accompany them with our prayers.

THE FIRST SAINT OF TAMIL NADU

We rejoice greatly that martyr Devasahayam Pillai, born on 23 April 1712 at Nattalam, Kanyakumari District, martyred on 14 April 1752, beatified in 2012 will be canonized on 15 May 2022, the fifth Sunday of Easter, at the Vatican by Pope Francis. It is indeed a matter of pride and honour for the Church in India and especially the Church in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Bishop’s Conference (TNBC) will be organizing a “National level Thanksgiving Day” on 5 June 2022, the solemnity of the feast of Pentecost at *Kattradi Malai*, Kanyakumari, to praise and thank the Lord for this great blessing. May the holiness of this great lay saint inspire us to be courageous witnesses of Jesus in today’s context.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR SRI LANKA

We are all aware that Sri Lanka is in dire straits. The people are suffering very much and are facing an acute economic crisis. The Catholic Bishops Conference in Sri Lanka has taken up the challenge with courage and social responsibility to fight for the people and with the people. Our Sisters on the Island are very much in solidarity with the people and network with the bishops and people of goodwill. Let us storm heavens that their efforts may bear fruit and that peace and prosperity may soon return to the country. Let us continue to implore peace for Ukraine and the various Countries affected by violence.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ Sr Kurusingal Alphonsa and the Sisters of Guwahati Province, at the demise of Sr Pinto Luisa (87) on 13 April
- ✠ Fr Thomas Santiago SDB, the Provincial and the Confreres of INH at the passing away of Fr Thattil Chacko SDB (82) on 19 April
- ✠ Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret and the Sisters of Trichy Province at the passing away of Sr Arokiasami Philomena (88) on 23 April. We owe our gratitude to our dear Sr Philomena for her dedicated educational service as a teacher and headmistress in many of the elementary Schools of our Province. May her soul rest in peace!
- ✠ Fr Savio Silveira SDB, the Provincial and the Confreres of INB at the passing away of Bro Anthony D'Souza (61) on 27 April 2022.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- MAY 2022

- 01 † Sr Colussi Rina (1966)
† Sr Merlo Teresa Pierina (1993)
- 02 † Sr Appiano Luigia (1970)
- 05 † Sr Gomes Anna (2000) and Sr Battigelli Genevieve (2014)
- 06 † Sr D'Gama Bertha (2008) and Sr Dias Lydia (2014)
- 07 † Sr Pereira Anne (1996)
- 12 † Sr Mascarenhas Josephine (1988)
- 18 † Sr Cogliolo Clotilde (1939) and Sr Gallina Cesira (1987)
- 19 † Sr De Berardinis Tullia (1957) and Sr Perez Mary Magdalene (2019)
- 20 † Sr Mathews Maddalena (2015) and, Sr D'Souza Gladys (2017)
- 21 † Sr Susai Pillai Saveria (1996)
- 22 † Sr Vallino Innocenza (1946)
- 29 † Sr De Silva Muriel (1991)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS -MAY

- 01 - Salesian Cooperators Promise day, Ayanavaram
- 02-09 - Annual Retreat IV, Yercaud
- 03 - Province Coordinators of Mission ad/inter gentes Meet (Africa, Asia and Australia), Online
- 09 - World Meet for Novices, Online
- 09 - Animation to Retreatants, Yercaud
- 10-11 - Provincial Council, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 19 - Province Coordinators of Social Communication Meet (PCI, CIAO and SPR), Online
- 22 - Recollection and Renewal of Vows for the Junior Sisters, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 24 - First Profession, Trichy
- 24-30 - Annual Spiritual Retreat for Sisters, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 25 - Final Commitment, Auxilium College, Katpadi
- 27 - Formative Meet for Province Economers, Online
- 30 -31 - Recollection and Renewal of Vows of Juniors, Negombo

On the first day of May, also known as 'May Day' we observe the '*International Day of the Workers*' under the patronage of St Joseph the worker. Let us pray for all the workers especially those who are collaborating in our institutions, and strive to promote activities that will pave the way to the sustainable development of workers.

The month of May is also marked by the feasts of two great Salesian saints: St Mary Domenica Mazzarello on the 13th and St Dominic Savio on the 6th. Though different in age, status and under different circumstances both had a very tender devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Maria Domenica was an active member of the Sodality of Mary Immaculate, imitating her virtues right from her young age. As the Superior General, Mother Mazzarello inspired our first Sisters and encouraged them to love Our Lady. She considered herself as the Vicar (second in line) to Mother Mary and Mary Help of Christians as the true superior of the community. She exercised a very significant act of placing the keys of the house at the feet of Mother Mary every night, asking for her continued protection of the house and each of the Sisters. She was certain that Mary Help of Christians protected her daughters, so she did not doubt her maternal presence in any situation. What she recommended to the missionaries was an undisputed certainty for her: "*Have great confidence in Our Lady; She will help you in everything*" (L 23: 3).

St Dominic Savio had a special love for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He prayed to ask for the grace of keeping his heart like hers, free from every impure desire. "Mary," he would pray, "I always want to be your son. *Let me die rather than commit a single sin against chastity.*" Every Friday he found a few minutes during the recreation to go to the chapel with some friends and recite the Seven Sorrows of Mary or the Litany of the Sorrowful Virgin. One Saturday, for example, he invited a companion to recite Our Lady's Vespers with him. He used to share interesting stories about Mary with his schoolmates. Now and then he would drop a good hint to get someone to go to confession and Communion in honour of the Blessed Mother.

May the celebration of the feasts of these Saints, increase our love for Mary and lead us to be ardent missionaries placing the young people in direct contact with Jesus who fills our life with joy. Let us remember in our prayers all our X, XI and XII standard students who will be appearing for their board exams during this month. Special prayerful greetings to all our Sisters and Houses that have the 'Help of Christians' as their patroness!

I wish you a very Happy feast of

*St Dominic Savio, St Mary D.Mazzarello
and Mary Help of Christians!*

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Nirmala Lazar

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial

MAY 2022

- 01 - Promise Day, Ayanavaram, Chennai
- 02 – 09 - Annual Retreat IV, Yercaud
- 09 - Animation to Retreatants, Yercaud
- 10 – 11 - Provincial Council, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 22 - Recollection and Renewal of Vows, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 24 - First Profession, Trichy
- 25 - Final Commitment, ACK

