



INM FMA/Pro.Cir.61

August 2022

“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song, for the LORD is the great God...” - Psalm 95: 2-3

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù!

Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

With great joy and jubilation, we are celebrating the 150 Years of the Foundation of our Institute on 5 August 2022 in communion with all the FMA of the world. It is a fitting occasion to remember with gratitude our father and founder St John Bosco and our mother and co-foundress, St Maria Domenica Mazzarello for their zeal for souls, thirst for God, boundless love and dauntless courage. May we continue to live the Spirit of Mornese with generous hearts to make God's love present, especially among the young, the poor and those on the fringes of society!

At the opening of choral circular no. 1020, *La Madre* and the General Council exclaim, “*From every community in the world, from sunrise to sunset, a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God will be raised for the wonders He has worked in the history of our educating communities and in the life of every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians*”. On this day, we renew our covenant of love with the Lord and express our deep gratitude for the full and abundant life of the young people. This jubilee celebration lived in the “variety of colours and cultures,” can be “opportunities for vocational re-launching and greater visibility of the charism today.” The circular concludes with the encouragement of Mother General and the Sisters of the Council to celebrate the 150th anniversary as the **mark of rebirth and an awakening of vocational and missionary freshness** in every FMA and educating community and to make the mandate “*I entrust them to you*” into “*I will take care of you,*” manifested in the daily fraternity, in unconditional sharing and as an expression of the maternal features of God’s face in the hope that **the experiences of communities open to young people may multiply**.

With and like Mary let us strive to be more and more “**happy women, in love with Jesus, passionate about the mission entirely given to God for the salvation of young people**”.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The FMA India is geared up for the Centenary Celebrations of FMA Presence in India. We start 100 days of special prayer for the historical date (24 November) of the arrival of our pioneers, from 16 August to 23 November 2022. I exhort you to make good use of the spiritual practices which will be sent to you shortly. I wish you a fervent spiritual journey in preparation for this significant milestone in Indian history.

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**’ that gives vital expression to communion, collaboration, participation, dialogue, teamwork and fruitful mission.

To those who believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, it is easy to walk together with other members of the Church and the community, breathing Synodality following Christ Our Master. Pope Francis has been trying to bring fresh air to the universal Church by inspiring all of us to go back to the **Biblical Roots**. He wants us to give **vital expression to communion, collaboration, teamwork, participation, dialogue and mission, the prerogative biblical concepts of the preparatory document**.

As members of the Church and of a religious community we are called to **shake off the dust of pride and vain glory, put on the clothes of humility, patience and meekness and listen to the cry of those on the margins of our society**. The Spirit of God is the source of all wisdom. St Paul instructs the Church in Thessalonica (5:19-21) not to quench the Spirit working in the community. According to St Benedict, the Lord often reveals the most prudent course of action to those who do not occupy important positions. **It calls for courage to consider the opinion and suggestions of those who do not have a significant role in the community or the mission**. This is possible only in a family-like ambient where holiness can blossom. In such an environment rigidity and misunderstandings are prevented and every member can lead a happy life making everything not merely logical but also easy and simple.

We are called to carry out our mission together as a shared apostolic project with the spirit of co-responsibility. Moses is an unparalleled leader in the history of the Hebrew (Deut. 34:10-12). With the increase of numbers in the community the disputes and problems too grew and Moses worked hard to solve the problems and instruct the people in the ways of the Lord. His father-in-law, Jethro, observes Moses doing a good job but getting burnt out along with the people who have to wait for hours to listen to him. Jethro expresses his displeasure about the way Moses is exercising his responsibilities. "What you are doing is not good...**You cannot do it alone (18:17-18). Moses with all his humility listens to this 'uneducated' and 'uncivilized' man of the wilderness**. Marvels took place because Moses, the humblest and the greatest leader, listened to the wisdom of Jethro. Issues were solved, time was managed well, no one had to waste energy, all were satisfied and Moses did not have to work 'from morning to evening'.

To achieve the set goal in our mission we need to exercise 'synodal praxis' for we cannot do it alone. We are well aware of the fact that **there is an inner desire in every human person to decide what concerns his or her life**. No one likes any decision that is thrust from outside. The real pathway to happiness and fulfilment in one's life is the awareness of being a part of the process of decision-making. It gives a person **inner worth and satisfaction**. We do witness that in the community and the mission the more the persons are involved in planning and decision making, the greater the cooperation of every individual and easier the execution. For this reason, Pope Francis exhorts us to involve everyone, all the baptized, in the decision-making and execution of the work of evangelization. **This demands that there is consultation, collaboration, and participation in carrying out the missionary work**. Carlo Colli puts it this way: we are redeemed by Christ and in Christ by **cooperating in the redemption of our brothers and sisters and by being part of His redemptive obedience**. The most effective way to collaborate in Christ and with Christ in the work of redemption is **to do, like Him, exactly what the Father wants from us; to live in communion of hearts** and spend ourselves for the spreading of God's kingdom.

If the Christian life is a communitarian life based on the **principles of equality, sharing and mutual respect and acceptance**, religious life demands greater commitment towards the same. Our life is centred on the Eucharist and the teachings of Christ where a lot of mutual communication takes place. **Our God is a God of communication (Amos 3:7; Mt.11:25) and Jesus called us his friends and communicated even the secrets of heaven to us (Jn 15:15)**. The supreme Pontiff - through his Catechesis on prayer - exhorts us to love the world following the way of the Lord, loving it with **tenderness, compassion and nearness**, which will lead us to discover that each day everything bears within it a fragment of God's mystery. Solely with our effort, we cannot arrive at set goals unless we

seek the Lord's grace through prayer. May Jesus, our Master make us capable of co-responsibility, collaboration and participation, filling us with his transforming grace that **quells anger, sustains love, multiplies joy, and instils the strength to forgive**, thus making communion a reality! May Mary the listening Virgin teach us the art of living the 'synodal praxis'.

Let us reflect and share:

- ✚ Am I ready to shake off the dust of pride, put on the clothes of humility and listen to the cry of those in the margins of our community and mission?
- ✚ What attitudes do I need to cultivate to involve everyone in the decision-making process, giving each person an inner worth and satisfaction more than what material things can give?
- ✚ Do I constantly ask the Lord in prayer to fill me with his transforming grace?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 02 - Bl Augustus Czartoryski SDB
- 04 - St John Maria Vianney
- 05 - 150th Foundation Day of FMA Institute / Our Lady of Snows
- 06 - Transfiguration of the Lord
- 15 - Assumption of Mother Mary / Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of Johnny Bosco
- 22 - Queenship of Mary
- 24 - St Bartholomew
- 25 - Bl Maria Troncati
- 26 - Bl Zeferino Namuncura
- 29 - Beheading of St John the Baptist

ALL IN THE FAMILY

HEARTY WELCOME!

We are almost at the threshold of the canonical visitation to the province with its inauguration on 8 August 2022 at the Provincial House, Kodambakkam. We extend a very hearty welcome to our dear **Sr Celine Jacob**, the Visiting General Councillor, who is coming to us in the name of the Lord and our Mother General. We are indeed privileged to have her motherly and enlightening presence among us from 07 August to 24 November 2022, especially during the significant centenary year of the FMA presence in India. Let us intensify our prayers for her good health and the fruitfulness of the visitation, and wish her a happy stay with us.

BENVENUTI CARISSIMI!

Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude as we are nearing the completion of 100 Years of our presence in our motherland, India. We have long been preparing ourselves for this great event of the Centenary Celebrations and particularly during the past three years with various initiatives focussing on personal, community and province renewal in the various aspects of our consecration and mission as FMA. The culmination of this momentous event will be on 3 September 2022 at the Auxilium College campus. It is indeed a great privilege to have our beloved Mother General, **Sr Chiara Cazzuola**, the 10th successor of Mother Mazzarello, joining us for this significant occurrence in the province. We warmly welcome her on her first visit to our dear country and especially to the mother province of FMA India. She comes in the name of the Lord carrying an abundance of His blessings which will surely pave way for a flourishing of the FMA charism in our sub-continent. The entire province educating community in chorus sing out aloud **BENVENUTA CARISSIMA MADRE!** We

are eager to have you with us from 31 August to 4 September 2022. We will cherish your longed-for presence, your words of wisdom and your encouraging stay in our midst.

We feel highly honoured to welcome our beloved Rector Major, **Fr Angel Fernandes Artime**, the dynamic successor of Don Bosco for the centenary celebrations. *BIENVENIDO RETTOR MAGGIORE!* We warmly welcome the General Councillors, **Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar**, Councillor for Mission Ad/inter gentes and **Sr Borja Runita**, Councillor for Youth Ministry, **Fr Biju Michael**, the South Asian Regional Superior and all the FMA and SDB Provincials of India to the FMA Chennai Province of St Thomas, the Apostle for this great historical occasion of the memory of the 100 Years of FMA Presence in India. *Benvenuti carissimi!* We look forward to your being with us to energise FMA India to launch ahead into the Post Centenary Expedition as heralds of the Good News of God's Kingdom of love, joy, peace and prosperity.

ENTRY INTO THE NOVITIATE

Hearty congratulations to our two postulants Dobinsiya Piratheepan and Sapna Nimesha Maharahatti who will be entering the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Negombo, Sri Lanka on 5 August 2022. We wish them a deeper experience of Jesus in their formative journey.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 5 August 2022, in Negombo, we are celebrating with joy the golden jubilee of the religious profession of Sr Nicholas Susheela, in charge of the development projects in Sri Lanka. We thank the Lord for her challenging and courageous mission in Sri Lanka, assure her of our prayers and wish her a fruitful mission in her onward journey.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO MOTHER YVONNE REUNGOAT!

An event that rouses gratitude to the Holy Father for the esteem he continues to show towards the FMA Institute is the **appointment of Mother Yvonne Reungoat as a member of the Dicastery for Bishops**. We rejoice with the FMA world for this singular privilege bestowed on our Mother General emeritus.

On 13 July 2022, the Holy Father appointed three women, as well as eleven Cardinals and Monsignors, as members of the Dicastery for Bishops: **Sr Yvonne Reungoat, our Mother General emeritus**; Sr Raffaella Petrini, Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist (F.S.E.), Secretary General of the Governorate of the Vatican City State; and Dr Maria Lia Zervino, President of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. **The Dicastery for Bishops** provides for everything that pertains to the appointment of diocesan and titular Bishops, apostolic Administrators and, in general, to the provision of local Churches, taking into consideration the proposals of local Churches, Episcopal Conferences, and Pontifical Representations, after having consulted the members of the Presidency of the respective Bishops' Conference and the Metropolitan. While we rejoice with her for this new appointment, a sign of the great trust of the Church in her and the entire Institute, we wish her a fruitful mission. Let us accompany her in this delicate mission with prayer and the commitment of our fidelity to the Church and the Pope.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony, the Past Pupils Delegate, for organizing the online meet for the past pupils on 2 July 2022.
- ✚ Sincere gratitude to Sr Doss Rosalia, the Directress of SEARCH Ashram, Mannivakkam, for orientating the Second Year Aspirants for the initiation into the period of Postulancy from 5 to 15 July 2022; and Sr Pichai Mary Saroja, the animator, and the Community for facilitating the ashram experience of the candidates.

- ✚ Million thanks to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, the animator, and the community of Kodambakkam for the hospitality given to the Provincial Councillors on 7 and 8 July; for hosting the Provincial Team Camp on 9 and 10 July, the New Animator's Meet on 11 July and the Trimonthly Recollection and Animation of Juniors on 16 and 17 July 2022.
- ✚ Our Gratitude to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary, the animator and the community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi, for hosting the Training for Teachers on Constitutional Rights Education (CRE) on 8 July; Sincere appreciation to Sr Joseph Victoria Mary for organizing the training for teachers and for the online Orientation for students on CRE on 30 July 2022.
- ✚ Expressions of thanks to Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary, the animator, and the community of Auxilium Convent Negombo, for hosting the annual Retreat for Novices and Sisters from 17 to 24 July 2022; to Sr Fernando Mary Ann, the delegate of Sri Lanka, for the organization and to Sr Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam, the Novice Formator, for giving conferences to the retreatants.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Devadoss Margaret, the animator, and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, for conducting the annual retreat for the candidates from 21 to 23 July and the Postulants' medal receiving ceremony on 24 July 2022.
- ✚ Congratulations to Sr Maria Louis Isabel Sirumalar and Sr Maidan Jaya Priya, the VIDES Coordinators, for organizing the online VIDES meet on 23 July.
- ✚ Sincere appreciation to Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi and the Centenary Renewal Committee members of our Province for the renewal programme "Charism sown and grown in Indian soil by Sr Gallina Cesira" on 30 July 2022, and to the resource person Sr Ambrose Arockia Jayaceli for her efficient presentation on this stalwart of FMA India and in particular, of our Province.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

All the Youth Pastoral, Social Communication, Mission ad/inter gentes, Catechetical and VIDES Coordinators of our communities participated in the webinar on Formation of Youth Pastoral Coordinators on 23 July animated by Youth Ministry Sector, Rome.

Sr Puliyani Lucy took part in the Provincial Economers' Formation Online Meet on 27 and 28 July organized by the Ecomer General, Rome.

Sr Kurapati Justina and Sr Chinnappan Rose Mary will be participating in the 53rd National Convention and General Body Meeting of All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) to be held at St. Xavier's High School, Delhi from 18 to 21 August 2022 with the theme: "Holistic Education for Social change".

MISSIONARY COURSE AND HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

I am happy to communicate to you that Sr Mathew Alice and Sr Paul M Mary will be participating in the missionary course at SDB Provincial House, Mathias Institute, Mawlai, Shillong, from 31 August to 20 September; Sr Anthonyraj Maria Theresa and Sr Nicholas Susheela will be joining them for the pilgrimage to Holy Land from 21 September to 2 October 2022. We wish them a profound spiritual renewal in the missionary ardour of the Salesian charism treading in the footsteps of our Lord.

INTENSIVE JUNIORATE

Sr Joseph Mercy Buela and Sr Arokia Raj Deepika will leave for Guwahati on 11 August for their Intensive Juniorate which will commence officially on 13 August 2022 at Auxilium, Provincial House, Guwahati. We wish them God's blessings and an enriching inter-province experience.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones in July 2022:

- ✠ To Sr Sebastian Philomena at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr Chinnappan (86) on 1 July
- ✠ To Sr Peter Ganesan Ragini at the demise of her brother-in-law Mr Kalidhasan (67) on 10 July
- ✠ To Sr Anthonyraj Maria Theresa at the sudden demise of her niece Ms Joyce (19) on 16 July
- ✠ To the Provincial and confreres of Guwahati Province on the death of Fr Thomas Punnolikunnel (87) SDB on 26 July 2022 and Fr Francis Hembrom SDB (56) on 30 July 2022.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- AUGUST 2022

- 04 † Sr Angeleri Maria (1967)
- 06 † Sr Xavier Anna (2005)
- 08 † Sr Spitalieri Carmela (1938)
- 09 † Sr Arockia Maria Teresa (2012)
- 10 † Sr Da Roit Cecilia (1981)
- 11 † Sr Soosai Maria Teresa (2019)
- 15 † Sr Ravalico Maria (1980)
- 19 † Sr D'Couth Margaret (2007)
- 20 † Sr James Glorina Rita (2019)
- 23 † Sr D'Souza Celine (2013)
- 26 † Sr Tagliabue Camilla (2004)
- † Sr Vaz Mary (2016)
- 27 † Sr D'Silva Lorenza (2019)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2022

- 01 - Competitions on the theme “Seeds sown in India a century ago” - Communities
- 05 - Jubilee of the 150th year of foundation of our Institute -Communities
 - Renewal of Vows of Juniors, Negombo
 - Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sr Nicholas Susheela, Negombo
- 06 - World Youth Day - Communities
 - Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, Salem
- 08 - Inauguration of the Canonical visit, Kodambakkam
 - Animators' Meet with the Visiting Councillor
- 09 - Provincial Team and Young Sisters' Meet with Visiting Councillor
- 10 - Provincial Council Meet with Visiting Councillor
- 11-12- Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 21 - Clean and green environment for Women SHGs, Kodambakkam
- 22 - Past Pupils' meet, online

- 22-25- Leadership Training Program for ACK students, Mazzarello Home, TPT
- 26 - Innovation and design thinking in the employability sector for VTC, Chetpet
- 27 - Catechetical Animation for Teachers - online
- 31 - Arrival of Mother General in Chennai, Kodambakkam
- 01 Sep.- Meeting with Mother General and the General Councillors, Kodambakkam
- 02 - Meeting with Mother General and the General Councillors, Vellore
- 03 - FMA India Centenary Celebrations, Auxilium Campus, Katpadi
- 04 - Meeting with Mother General and the General councillors, Auxilium College, Katpadi

On 15 August we celebrate the 76th Independence Day of our country. 75 years ago, India our beloved country attained freedom from the British Raj. India is the world's largest democracy and accounts for a huge human population with more than 65% below the age of 35; a valuable human resource/capital to be harnessed for growth. On this day, we celebrate our freedom won by the sacrifice of our forefathers and commemorate that historical event with great pride and enthusiasm. Freedom is the most prized of all the blessings and we thank God for it. Freedom is the responsibility to live with a purpose for which God made us. Human beings are made in the image of God; to be like Him and reflect His goodness and holiness. Freedom is doing what is right and good, true and honourable, honest and just which brings the inner joy of the spirit. Freedom is not to damage others but to seek the good of others in love. We pray that we prize the freedom to be fine persons and rejoice in the blessings that flow in the law of love.

On this day we also celebrate the feast of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and comfort to us, the pilgrim people. We believe that when she died, Mary went to heaven body and soul, where the Lord exalted her as Queen of Heaven (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #966). May Mary assumed into heaven make us realize the beauty of heaven and help us to love Jesus above all things and with concrete deeds. May our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for Him!

We express our warm festal wishes to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the Provincial and all the Sisters of Trichy Province on 5 August, the feast of Our Lady of Snows, the patroness of the Province.

Hearty congratulations and prayerful blessings to the novices who will be making their first profession, the Sisters who will be renewing their vows and making their Final commitment, and to those who keep the anniversary of their first and final commitment on 5 August!

I wish you all a very Happy 150th Birthday of our Congregation, Feast of Our Lady assumed into heaven and Independence Day!

*Yours affectionately,
Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial AUGUST 2022

- 01-06 - Preparation for the Canonical Visit, Kodambakkam
- 07 - Arrival of the Visiting Councillor, Kodambakkam
- 08 - Inauguration of Canonical visit, Kodambakkam
- 09 - 10 - Meetings with Visiting Councillor, Kodambakkam
- 11-12 - Provincial Council Meet, Kodambakkam
- 13 - Auxilium College - Provincial Council visit
- 13 AN - Pallikonda – PV
- 14 - Yellagiri Hills – PV
- 15 - Mazzarello Home – PV
- 16 - Erode – PV
- 17 - Salem Pethanaickenpalayam & Salem Avvai Nagar - PV
- 18 - Michaelpuram - PV
- 19 - Dharmapuri - PV
- 20 – 30 - Preparation for Centenary Celebrations
- 31 - Arrival of Mother General and General Councillors, Kodambakkam
- 01 Sep. - Meeting with Mother General and General councillors, Kodambakkam
- 02 - Meeting with Mother General and General councillors, Vellore
- 03 - FMA India Centenary Celebrations, Auxilium Campus, Katpadi
- 04 - Meeting with Mother General and General councillors, Auxilium College, Katpadi

