



INM FMA/Pro.Cir.62

September 2022

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour!” – Lk 1:46-47

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`!

Affectionate greetings to you from the Provincial House, Kodambakkam!

With a great sense of gratitude and praise to the Lord of lords and King of kings for all His goodness and miraculous interventions here I come to share with you in this circular the beautiful experience we had just lived through during the past week of marvels!

THE MEGA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

At the happy conclusion of the memorable centenary mega celebrations of FMA India and INM Province from 31 August to 4 September 2022, our hearts are overwhelmed with boundless gratitude. Today's beautiful moments are tomorrow's remarkable memories, so, I invite you *to relax, recall, relish and recount taking stock of the abundant blessings of God we have received through the visit of our beloved Mother General Rev Sr Chiara Cazzuola accompanied by the two general councillors Sr Runita Borja and Sr Ruth del Pilar Mora*, who arrived in our Province on 31 August 2022. Every day of their stay amidst us was indeed a significant milestone in the annals of our Province!

ARRIVAL OF MOTHER GENERAL AND GENERAL COUNCILLORS TO OUR PROVINCE, 31 AUGUST 2022, KODAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI

It was undeniably an auspicious occasion as we eagerly awaited the visit of Rev Sr Chiara Cazzuola, our beloved Mother General, Rev Sr Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry and Rev Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor for the Missions to our province because of the Centenary Celebrations of FMA presence in India. They arrived from Bombay and were given a warm and affectionate welcome inside the Chennai Airport at 11.30 a.m., along with the airport officials inside and outside with the educating community members. As they entered the Provincial House at Kodambakkam, the Fatima school students, Marialaya children from Nandambakkam and Hostellers from Our Lady's Centre lined up from the gate to the portals of the convent greeting them with glittering pom poms and waves of scalloped shining netted cloth. The provincial councillors and the animators of the Chennai zone expressed their joyous welcome by donning the garland, *ponnadai* and the students by their rhythmic dance and song and *arathi* as per the typical Tamil culture. Mother General reciprocated the affection of the gathering by thanking the entire Educating Community and praising them for their presence and involvement. They were accompanied to the chapel for a brief prayer moment during which Mother Chiara lit the traditional Indian lamp (Kuthuvilakku) and I said a prayer of thanksgiving.

In the afternoon, we took them for a pilgrimage to the shrines of St Thomas the Apostle, the patron of our province: Little Mount, Thomas Mount and Santhome Cathedral. A very beautiful and significant event was the holy Eucharist on the tomb of the saint in the crypt chapel of the basilica. The celebrant, Rev. Fr Maria Arockiam Kanaga SDB, during the homily shared about the credibility of the presence and martyrdom of St Thomas the Apostle in Chennai making it a holy place. Mother Chiara gave the

good night thought highlighting three keywords: *Thanks* for all the wonders of God at the start of the Centenary Celebrations of the presence of FMA in India; *Mary* who was present and continues to be present in the Institute and each of our lives; and *St Thomas* the patron of our Province whose faith and courage we need to follow.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER dawned in splendid grandeur in INM Province with the Centenary Celebrations of FMA Presence in India. The Centenary event commenced with the fervent Morning Prayer at Fatima Convent Chapel, Kodambakkam. Mother General offered a symbolic tree having many branches with its nests representing all the Sisters, children, young people, women and all our beneficiaries who came under the tree, found shelter and who in turn dedicated themselves with zeal to revitalize the Charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello responding to the signs of the times in the present socio-ecclesial situation.

THE CENTENARY INAUGURAL EUCHARIST was celebrated at the Fatima Parish Church, Kodambakkam, presided by His grace Rev. George Anthonysamy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, and con-celebrated by Rev. Fr K. M. Jose SDB, Salesian Provincial, Fr Don Bosco, Vice Provincial, Fr Robert Bellarmine SDB, Rector of Salesian Theologate, Kavrapettai, Rev. Fr Ignatius Thomas, Parish Priest of Kodambakkam and the assistant parish priests. The parishioners, parents, benefactors, educating community members, staff and students of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School participated in large numbers. The Archbishop, in his homily, exhorted the FMA to be renewed and converted continuously and to make an absolute surrender to the Lord like the Apostle Peter who in obedience to Jesus cast the net and drew abundant fish.

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY MEMORIAL: At 9.00 a.m., Rev. Sr Chiara Cazzuola, the Superior General of the Institute, unveiled the plaque of the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) - THE CENTENARY MEMORIAL, I cut open the ribbon to enter into the new building and Most Rev. Archbishop George Antonysamy blessed the centenary building. The occasion commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Mother General and the general councillors. The centenary memorial is a miraculous gift from God and one of the many dreams of the Province to empower young people and women with employability.

MEETING WITH THE SISTERS, BATCH 1 & 2: It was a great privilege for the Sisters to meet our Mother General in two batches. The first batch of 43 Sisters had their meeting at the Provincial House, Kodambakkam, on 1 September from 10.15 to 11.15 a.m. The second batch of 84 Sisters encountered La Madre on 4 September at noon in Auxilium College, Katpadi. Mother in her talk said that the Lord has placed each one of us in this historic moment to take on the responsibility of *'presence'*, the keyword of General Chapter XXIV. At the end of the session, the Sisters were gifted with a picture prepared by Mother and her Council for the 150th birth year of our Institute, depicting Mary of Nazareth in the middle of Mornese, Nizza and Turin manifesting that she is dynamic and youthful with her big hands ready to embrace. Mother General recommended us to resemble Mary our mother in all our ways.

MEETING WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE: At 11.30 a.m. Mother Chiara and the General Councillors interacted with nearly 1000 young people from the Schools of INM and INT provinces in Chennai. Mother General hoisted the centenary flag and she declared the opening of Centenary Celebrations. The joyous occasion was marked by the release of 100 tri-colour balloons marking the 100 years of the presence of Salesian Sisters in India. The doves were released, as a sign of joy, peace and harmony. The presentation on the theme of 'Laudato si' - 'Care for our common home- the Earth', was the culmination of the meeting. Sr. Runita Borja, the general councillor for youth ministry, in her message to the young people exhorted them to take home the message by repeating *"I belong to you, You belong to me, We belong to God and Together we make the World."* Mother General blessed the gathering with her special message.

MEETING WITH WOMEN GROUPS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE STUDENTS AND SALESIAN FAMILY MEMBERS: At 4.00 p.m. Mother General and the General Councillors were happy to meet around 600 members of the Salesian Family, Chennai Zone, along with the members of the Women Self Help Groups, VIDES, Educating Community and the Vocational Training Students. The Social Development Co-ordinator presented a Video on the success stories of women and children and the activities for Youth Development. The Vocational training students performed a mime depicting the situation of today's youth and the benefits they get through the Vocational Training Centre in the Province. Mother Chiara Cazzuola thanked all the Coordinators for all the good works done for the good of the poor and the empowerment of women.

FAMILY CIRCLE WITH THE SDB OF CHENNAI ZONE: At 7.30 p.m., there was the gathering of the Family Circle at the Provincial House, Kodambakkam, with nearly 60 Salesians of INM and Sisters from Chennai houses. The prayer moment recalled the close rapport between the SDB and the FMA right from the beginning of our Institute and at the arrival of our first Missionaries in Tamil Nadu. This was followed by my welcome address, felicitations by Fr K.M. Jose, the SDB Provincial and good night thought by Mother General on the wonderful fraternal relationship that existed between the first Sisters of Mornese and the Salesians. There was great rejoicing with fun and laughter at the fellowship meal. Mother General along with me thanked the Salesians for their spiritual help, collaboration and the good relationship they maintain with the Sisters. The Salesians were very appreciative of this unique event and were happy to receive a pen and a key chain as a souvenir of the centenary. The day ended with a note of joy and mutual thanksgiving.

MOTHER GENERAL AND THE GENERAL COUNCILLORS @ ST MARY'S VELLORE, THE FIRST HOUSE IN VELLORE ZONE – 02 SEPTEMBER 2022

ENCOUNTER WITH THE YOUNG SISTERS: At 9.30 a.m. the meeting with the 50 young Sisters (2010 - 2022 profession batches) started with a prayer moment invoking the Spirit of the Lord. The Sisters welcomed Mother General and the General Councillors with their rhythmic, graceful and colourful dance; a feast to the eyes. *La Madre* addressed the young Sisters saying that Mary is walking not only in Nizza but in each of our houses. There was a meaningful interaction session with Mother General during which the young Sisters were enlightened on how to integrate work and prayer, live in continuous union with God and be a happy FMA. Quoting from the letters of Mother Mazzarello, *la Madre* gave them the two words to remember always: '**joy and courage**'.

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION: At 11.15 a.m. there was a solemn **Eucharistic celebration** presided over by Mgr Rev. I. John Robert, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Vellore. A Plantain Tree was carried in procession with a significant introduction connecting the Marian foundation, the sacrificing work of the pioneers, and the growth and expansion of the Charism during the first century urging the participants to raise their hearts in thanksgiving to the Lord. Mgr Rev. I. John Robert thanked Mother General and the Sisters for the fruitful service rendered to the Diocese of Vellore through the Schools, Teacher Training Institutes, the College and Institutions of Non-formal education. He encouraged the girls to continue the work of the Salesian Sisters by offering themselves to God as FMA.

INAUGURATION OF THE 'LEGACY OF THE CENTURY' - A CHARISMATIC MUSEUM
After the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, the Charismatic Museum was blessed by Mgr John Robert and inaugurated by Rev. Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the Superior General of our Institute, in the presence of Sr Celine Jacob, the visiting councillor, and the two General Councillors Sr Runita Borja and Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar, all the young Sisters and other FMA. Sr Josephine Antonyraj, Sr Juliana Agnes and Sr. Irine Towle were honoured by *La Madre* for their dedicated hard work in creating the beautiful charismatic museum.

CELEBRATION WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE: Around 3.30 p.m. the young pupils of our schools from Tirupattur, Vellore, Arni, Anmarudai, Polur and Dharmapuri with their Staff, Parents and members of the educating community gathered together to celebrate and felicitate the Mother

General and Councillors. A welcome song, prayer dance and fusion dances were performed by different schools to express their love, joy and gratitude to God and the Congregation of the FMA for their great service to the people of their region. Mother in her message to the young people appreciated them for their breathtaking and colourful performances on the stage. Quoting the words on the backdrop, **'THEY HAVE SOWN WE HAVE GROWN'**, she invited them to look at the past with gratitude and at the future with confidence to build it daily with hope and with responsibility.

VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH AND THE BISHOPS HOUSE: Mother and the General Councillors were welcomed by the parish priest of the Vellore Cathedral Church, Rev Fr Joe Lourdasamy with the donning of *Ponnadai*. He briefly explained the art and architecture of the Church and took them along the wonderful Rosary Garden. An impressive welcome was accorded to them at the bishop's house by Mgr John Robert, the Apostolic Administrator, along with the Priests of the Curia with *ponnadai*, cutting of the cake and words of appreciation for all the good works done by the Salesian Sisters to the poor people and children of the Diocese of Vellore by starting the first three communities of Arni, Vellore and Polur in the North Arcot district in 1928. Mother General and the General Councillors were much appreciative of their sense of gratitude and kindness.

VIGIL SERVICE @ AUXILIUM COLLEGE, KATPADI: Around 6.30 p.m. Mother General and General Councillors were welcomed affectionately at Auxilium College, Katpadi. The cheering array of college girls from the gate to the convent entrance was spectacular. The welcome song by the community set the tone for centenary celebrations. The solemn vigil service guided by INM Province began at 7.15 p.m. with expressions of joy and thankfulness. Mother General, General Councillors, the President and Vice President of the FMA-PCI carried lighted lamps to the altar while the entire FMA India thanked God for the precious gift of the first six pioneering missionaries who brought the Salesian Christ to our beloved motherland India. After supper, the Sisters coming from all the corners of the north and south of FMA India gathered eagerly in front of the convent portico to hear the words of Mother Chiara.

FMA INDIA GRAND CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT AUXILIUM CAMPUS, KATPADI, 03 SEPTEMBER 2022

At last the much-awaited day dawned! 03 September 2022! The culminating event of the glorious centenary festivities of the FMA Presence in India at the PCI level began in the vast, nostalgic and enchanting Auxilium campus!

CENTENARY MORNING PRAYER: All the Sisters who had come for this great occasion and the members of the Salesian Family along with Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the General Councillors, the seven Provincials and the former provincials of FMA INDIA participated in the Morning Prayer at 7.00 a.m. animated by INS and ING Provinces. All joined in unison to raise voices to sing praises to the Almighty for the wonders He has worked in the lives of our pioneering missionaries and every FMA of the past and present.

SALESIAN FAMILY MEET: At 9.00 a.m. the FMA of Indian Provinces along with the Representative Members of the Salesian Family were present to greet Mother and the Councillors. The dignitaries were welcomed to the Auditorium, by teachers dressed up as Don Bosco, Mother Mazzarello, Fr Philip Rinaldi and Mamma Margaret holding colourful roses. The meeting began with a short, creative, and interesting presentation on the mission of the various Members of the Salesian Family by the Provinces of FMA India: ADMA through a tableau (INC), Salesian Co-operators by PowerPoint presentation (INK), VIDES with a video (INM), Educating Community in the form of dialogue (INM), Past Pupils by way of a conversation (ING). Mother General wholeheartedly thanked the various groups of the Salesian Family for their wonderful mission in India in collaboration with the FMA. In the concluding message, she reminded every member of the Salesian family that Don Bosco has given us only the sketch of the Salesian Charism and we have to colour it with our creative fidelity.

SOLEMN THANKSGIVING EUCHARIST

At 11.00 a.m. the solemn Thanksgiving Centenary Eucharist began with a brief introduction (INK) explaining the significance of the day. A rhythmical dance (INM) in the procession was followed by flag bearers - Mother General, General Councillors, FMA Provincials, Representative Members of Salesian Family carrying their respective flags, and 100 lamp holders signifying the centenary (INC). Welcome by *kumbaarathi* and homage to the Lord by the triple *arathi* were done by INT Province. The Eucharist was presided over by beloved Rector Major Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Artime and concelebrated by SDB Provincials of Chennai, Trichy and Hyderabad, Mgr I. John Robert, Apostolic Administrator of Vellore Diocese, and more than 50 Diocesan and Salesian priests. For the prayers of the faithful INB province presented to the Lord the needs of the Church, Salesian Family and Society. During the homily, the Rector Major expressed his joy in being able to thank God along with the entire FMA world for its 150 years of service in the Church and particularly for the marvellous growth of the Salesian Charism in India. He recommended the Salesian Sisters, fidelity to Charism especially in serving the poor young people and women, saying that **there will be a second centenary because of our fidelity**. He encouraged the young people to be happy always. *All the participants were overwhelmed with joy and were excited to take personal and group photos with the Rector Major and Mother General. The auditorium was packed to capacity with more than 1000 persons. Many acclaimed that the FMA SDB Generalate is in Katpadi, Vellore, with the Leaders of both the main branches of the Salesian Family being present. A rare and memorable occurrence indeed!*

THE GRAND FINALE-CULTURAL BONANZA: The grand finale of the celebrations that marked the centenary of the Salesian Sisters in India started at 4.30 p.m. with great pomp and fanfare at the premises of Auxilium School Campus, Katpadi. The procession of the guests started with the releasing of the doves and with the parade of the NCC of Auxilium arts and science college Katpadi to the band of Auxilium Girls Higher Secondary School while the beautiful young women of the Auxilium College of Education escorted the guests to the auditorium with colourful umbrellas. The chief guest of the Magnificent Centenary Event was Mother Chiara Cazzuola, Superior General of Salesian Sisters Rome, Italy. The guests of honour were Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians, Rev. Sr Celine Jacob, Visiting General Councillor, Rev. Sr Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Rev. Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor for the Missions, Rev. Fr Biju Michael, the Salesian Regional Councillor for South Asia, Rev. Mgr. John Robert, Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Vellore, FMA and SDB Provincials of India.

The Celebrations commenced with a solemn prayer moment by INK followed by a scintillating welcome dance by INT and a cultural Dance by INC. As the President of the FMA Provincial Conference of India, I had the joy of welcoming the gathering and also the privilege of felicitating the former provincials of the seven FMA Provinces, while the provincial councillors of our province felicitated the present provincials of FMA INDIA. The FMA Provincials honoured Mother General, Rector Major, General Councillors, Salesian Regional Councillor, Apostolic Administrator of Vellore Diocese and the SDB Provincial of Chennai.

Three books titled, 'A Mother's Tender Touch - Marian Miracles', 'FMA Presence in India 2020', and 'Success Stories and Stalwarts of Social Ministry' were released by Rector Major, Mother General and Sr Celine Jacob respectively and the first copies were received by Mother General, Sr Celine Jacob and Sr Ruth del Pillar respectively in the presence of the guests of honour. To reinforce the Salesian purpose of educating the young girls, financial aid by way of Centenary Scholarships was given to 100 needy students in each Province. As a token ten students of INM were presented with scholarships by Sr Runta Borja. A fixed deposit of Rs.10,00,000/- was also established as a scholarship educational fund for the higher education of deserving students. The untiring and selfless efforts of the Salesian Sisters over the years were celebrated with the conferring of the Lifetime Achievement Awards on a Sister from each of the seven provinces. The senior most orphans brought up by the pioneers, Mrs Clotti and the only FMA among them Sr Dolores Munisamy, were also honoured by Mother General. The centennial address by Mother General was marked by a profound gratitude for the pioneering missionary Sisters and the centrality of the Salesian educational mission to serve the poor young girls,

women and children. She emphasised that the centenary celebration should reawaken in everyone the **responsibility for preserving and developing the Charism and insisted that each of us is personally accountable for its vitality.**

After having felicitated the Salesian Sisters, the Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Arttime appreciated the efforts of everyone who brought the FMA provinces in India to such great heights. He also shared a lighter moment with the audience by crooning two Spanish songs. Fr. Biju Michael and Mgr. John Robert thanked the Rector Major, Mother General and her Council and the Salesian Sisters for their untiring efforts in the service of the poor and needy, and the development of society.

The cultural bonanza followed with a splendid presentation of the Centenary theme by INM through a mesmerizing mime and an enthralling display of dance forms ranging from folk, classical, modern, fusion to ballet, and a melodic rendition of the Centenary Anthem by ING and INS. The evening ended with a vote of thanks by Rev. Sr Meenakshi D' Silva FMA, Provincial of Mumbai and the Vice President of PCI. The curtains came down on the Centenary Celebrations with the singing of the Centenary Anthem in Tamil. While the aspirants, postulants and the young Sisters danced rhythmically on the stage to the tune of the glorious centenary anthem the audience from the floor of the auditorium responded with the waving of the colourful centenary scarves. The recollections of the grand finale on 03 September 2022 will remain indelibly etched in the memories of all those who formed part of the celebrations, all those who participated and all the FMA India as a brilliant commemoration of the 100 Years long Presence of Salesian Sisters in India.

All the religious and the laity who participated in the celebrations and all those who witnessed it online acclaimed that all the events were precisely planned, efficiently organized and meticulously executed. They expressed appreciation and esteem to INM Province, the host of the centenary events. It was indeed the fruit of a team effort of all the seven Provinces of FMA India. Long live FMA India! Long live Salesian Charism in India, in the Second Century and in the Years and Generations to come!

GIFT OF ANOTHER NEW DAY WITH LA MADRE

The 4 September was an exclusive day for us to rejoice in the presence of *La Madre* and the General Councillors. After an ardent Morning Prayer, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 7.00 a.m. by Rev. Fr K. M. Jose SDB, the INM Provincial. The theme of the 23rd Sunday on Discipleship was highlighted in the introduction and prayers of the faithful.

At 9.15 a.m. Mother General in a meeting with the seven Provincials of FMA India shared her wisdom, inspiring and inviting us to grow in inner stability and maturity to make others grow by giving priority to the accompaniment of persons. Recalling the words of Rector Major she said, '***how much God loves our Institute is very evident when we think of the small village of Mornese, and the fruitfulness of our Charism is visible when we look at our map***'. The Congregation has continuity because Our Lady continues to guide us. She reminded us that PCI is the place of communion and interculturality is a reality in our land. She thanked FMA INDIA for the vitality and vigour in living the Salesian Charism. Mother Chiara gifted each provincial a big and beautiful Chalice and Paten as the Centenary gift. Thank you dear Mother for the great love you have for your daughters!

Simultaneously, the General Councillors Sr Runita Borja and Sr Ruth del Pilar met seventy of our Sisters, comprising the members of the provincial team and the local coordinators and shared with them the essential qualities of a coordinator and a team leader: listening, capacity for relationships, mutual acceptance and synodal mentality.

Mother General and General Councillors had a meeting with the animators of Chennai Province at Noon. *La Madre* expressed appreciation for all they do for the community and the province and reminded them of their role of being the Good Shepherdess especially by loving every sister of the community. At 3.30 p.m. Mother met the Provincial Council and spoke to them of their commitment as councillors according to the mind of Fr Philip Rinaldi. At 5.30 p.m. the two general councillors had the joy of interacting with the nearly 900 young girls of Auxilium College Hostel motivating them to have a vision in life and walk step by step to accomplish the mission.

In all these meetings, the Sisters experienced the presence of Mother Mary and St Maria Domenica Mazzarello in the gentle and smiling person of Mother Chiara. They enjoyed the sisterly and joyful presence of Sr Runita and Sr Ruth.

At 6.30 p.m. Mother and the General councillors were welcomed at Sacred Heart Home, the Formation House in the Auxilium Campus. After a grand welcome given by the candidates and the community, Mother met the candidates for a few minutes. Vespers was prayed together by all the three communities on the campus followed by the colourful presentation of the Formative Journey by the Candidates. After the joyful table fellowship, Mother General expressed her happiness and gratitude for the beautiful experience of the centenary celebrations in our Province.

The following day, 5 September, at 6.00 a.m. the INM Province bid farewell to Mother General and the two General Councillors who left for Trichy.

With a thankful heart and joyous spirit, we celebrate our gratitude to God, the Most High, who made everything possible and beautiful and to His Most Holy Mother for her living presence and loving interventions.

SYMPHONY OF THANKS

At this historic moment of the conclusion of the first hundred years, we gratefully salute the six pioneering missionaries who daringly stepped into our motherland with the gift of the Salesian Charism in all its freshness as messengers of hope to the young people especially the poor and the marginalised. Their only focus was to build God's Kingdom of justice, peace and prosperity. Their first heroic step initiated the journey of the first hundred years of FMA in India. We pay them our grateful homage! We record our immense gratitude to all the dear Salesians who lovingly accompanied us from the beginning till today. We fondly honour all the zealous and valiant FMA missionaries and the Sisters of our motherland who joined forces with them and courageously took all the jerks and jolts of the arduous journey and have laid down their lives for the development of the mission in India.

We are grateful to our Most Rev **Rector Major** Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, 10th successor of St John Bosco, whose gracious presence at the centenary event made it more magnificent, memorable and meaningful. His charismatic presence significantly marked the Hundred Years of the story of FMA in India and for us, it was indeed a matter of pride, privilege and predilection.

Our outburst of joy was boundless at the motherly presence of our ever-loving, charming and magnetic **Mother General**, Rev Sr Chiara Cazzuola, the 10th Successor of St Maria Domenica Mazzarello amidst us from 31 August to 4 September 2022! We, her daughters in India felt highly blessed by her graceful presence among us. We experienced her synodal leadership, her simplicity, dedication and limitless optimism which was expressed in her every word and gesture. We were enthused by her short but profound speeches at every meeting and grasped her great love for Salesian Charism and her passion for young people. Her presence certainly added great solemnity to our centenary festivities! *Grazie mille carissima Madre Chiara!*

We were so blessed to have with us **our dear Visiting General Councillor Rev. Sr Celine Jacob**, for the centenary celebrations in our Province! With her calm and amiable nature, enthusiasm and encouraging words she added spice to our celebrations. *Our hearty thanks to you dear Sister!*

We were tremendously delighted to have had with us two of our General Councillors **Rev. Sr Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry and Sr Ruth del Pilar Mora, General Councillor for the Missions**. A sign of God's superabundant blessings upon us! Their dynamic, youthful and enthusiastic presence, their ever-availability to translate the messages of Mother General and their joyful messages to the Sisters, Coordinators and young people were a great inspiration to us. *Thanks a million to you dear Sisters Runita and Ruth!*

We were privileged to have the joyful presence of Rev. **Fr Biju Michael SDB, Regional Councillor for South Asia** on this special occasion to take part in our revelry and to listen to his inspiring message

he encouraged us to move forward towards the second century with courage. *Thank you very much, dear Fr Biju!*

We were happy to have Rev. **Mgr I. John Robert, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Vellore** during the centenary celebrations, to preside the Holy Eucharist and bless the Charismatic Museum on 2 September at St. Mary's Vellore, and for his active presence with us on 3 September. He had always been a great support to us and especially in having this mega event in the diocese. We thankfully acknowledge all that he had done for the growth of our mission in the diocese and the encouragement we receive from all the diocesan clergy.

We express our wholehearted gratitude to all the **FMA Provincials of India**. Working together as the Provincial Conference of India and coming together to celebrate the journey of the first 100 Years was a great synodal experience of joyful and purposeful collaboration for the jubilant reaping of a harvest of joy. We are so grateful to each of you, especially for the intense three-year preparatory journey we made together to witness the splendour of these centenary celebrations. Your presence added verve and vigour to this occasion.

Our special gratitude to all the **former FMA provincials** for their gracious presence with us during the celebrations. Along the lines traced out by the first Sisters and the founding provincials, they have contributed unflinchingly their giant share of dedicated toil to build up the provinces in India with a steady growth of the Salesian Mission. *Dear Sisters, it was fitting that you were here to rejoice at the celebration of the rich harvest of the hundred years.*

With a note of immense gratitude, we thank the **SDB Provincials of Chennai, Trichy, and Hyderabad**. Their presence on this auspicious occasion and their sharing in our grand celebration signified their closeness to us the FMA. We experienced their brotherly involvement, guidance and support in sowing the seeds of Salesian Charism in our land. *Thank you, dear Fathers!*

Sincere thanks to all our Salesian provincial councillors, rectors and all the confreres, and members of the Salesian Family- Salesian Co-operators, Past pupils, ADMA and VIDES members of Chennai Province, the clergy, women and men religious of other congregations, members of the educating community, Fr. Ernest Rosario and his DBICA Team for their digital expertise, well-wishers, benefactors, and all those who were present and contributed for the centenary celebrations.

Heartfelt Sincere gratitude to Sr. Joseph Teresa INB, the **General Coordinator of the Centenary Celebrations**, for all her initiatives and interventions in the planning and realisation of this great event; to Sr Potteparambil Stella INC the coordinator of the Renewal Committee and the members for all their animations, Sr. Pulapati Prameela Sundari INK and the members of the Publicity Committee, Sr Philomena D'Souza INB and History Writing Committee, Sr Braganza Hilda INB and the Sisters of the Souvenir Committee; Sr Chacko Alice INK and the members of the FMA India Presence at 2020 Committee; Sr Victor Juliana Agnes INM and the Documentary Committee, Sr Alexander Amali INM, the Programme coordinator and her team for their wonderful coordination for communion at the national level to bring out the splendid cultural Bonanza.

We express our hearty thanks to the **communities who hosted the Centenary Celebrations**: Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, the animator and the community of Kodambakkam, Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary and the Community of St Mary's Vellore, Sr Kunnathu Anna and the community of Auxilium College, Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and the Sisters of Auxilium Home and Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Sisters and Candidates of Sacred Heart Home, who left no stone unturned to make all the prior preparations and to provide accommodation, food and all other arrangements in the venue for the celebration.

Our special thanks to Sr Antonyraj Christina, the **Province Centenary Coordinator** and the Finance Coordinator, and all the coordinators of the various committees of our Province for their untiring dedication and commitment to carrying forward the centenary events. A note of thanks to Sr Francis Irudayamary and the Choir members for their angelic singing which made us taste the heavenly joy.

I place on record our sincere gratitude to all the FMAs who contributed in one way or the other to the fruitful celebration of the centenary, particular to all our **elderly sisters** who made every day an hour of adoration for this special intention, to all the animators and the communities for the year-long special prayers offered for the success of the centenary celebrations.

Our appreciation to the team members who animated the meetings and thanks to the animators and the communities who hosted the following meetings in August 2022:

- Rev Sr Fernando Mary Ann the Delegate of Sri Lanka and Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary, the Animator of Negombo community for taking care of the renewal of Vows of Juniors on 5 August 2022 and for the beautiful Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Sr Nicholas Susheela at Negombo.
- To Sr Gaspar Mary Celine and the community of Kodambakkam for making all arrangements for the inauguration of the Canonical Visit and the various initial meetings with the Visiting Councillor at Kodambakkam from 7 to 10 August and for hosting the Provincial Council meeting on 11 and 12 September.
- To Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony, the delegate of the Past Pupils Association for the online Past Pupils' Meet on 22; to Sr Alphonse J. Isabella for the animation on Innovation and Design Thinking in the Employability Sector to VTC students on 26; and Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, the SPM Coordinator for animating the Leadership Training Programme for 30 Auxilium College Students at Mazzarello Home, TPT from 22 to 25 September.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 05 St Teresa of Calcutta / Teachers' Day
- 06 Bl Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell
- 08 Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child's Day
- 12 Holy Name of Mary
- 14 Exaltation of The Holy Cross
- 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- 21 St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 22 Bl. Joseph Calasanz & Enrico Saizapricio SDB & Co
- 24 Our Lady of Ransom
- 25 World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- 29 Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

ALL IN THE FAMILY

CANONICAL VISITATION

Let us continue to pray for our dear Sr Jacob Celine, the Visiting General Councillor, as she has successfully completed her visitation in Sri Lanka and has resumed her visit on 5 September with the community at Pallikonda and now moving on to Dharmapuri. I thank Sr. Kasu S. Showrilu for her efficient accompaniment as secretary to Sr. Celine Jacob, to all the communities in Sri Lanka. And I am happy to communicate to you that Sr. Gabriel Mariammal will be her Secretary in all other communities in our Province.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to our dear Sr Celine Arokiaswamy on her being conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award by Mother General on 3 September 2022 at the Mega Event of the Centenary Celebrations the FMA India held in Auxilium Campus, Katpadi. Sr Mary Celine has rendered commendable services as Novice Formator for seventeen years and as Provincial of Chennai for six years. She directed the mission of the province with a far-sighted vision, particularly for women and children at risk. She founded many communities in Andhra and Kerala paving the way for the new Province of Sacred Heart, Bangalore. She is intelligent, audacious, empathetic, magnanimous, upright, other-centred and a woman of faith with servant-style leadership! Congratulations dear Sr Mary Celine! We are proud of you!

CANONIZATION OF SALESIAN BROTHER ARTEMIDE ZATTI

We rejoice greatly at the announcement of the date of canonization of Artemide Zatti. On August 27, 2022, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints announced that on **Sunday, 9 October 2022, Pope Francis will canonize Artemide Zatti a Saint** at St Peter's square in Rome. Artemide Zatti was born in Italy but moved to Argentina with his family in 1897 at the age of 16. The family left their homeland due to extreme poverty. At the age of nine, Zatti was already helping his parents by working as a farmhand. At the age of 20, he joined the Aspirantate to become a Salesian priest. While living in the Salesian community, Zatti contracted tuberculosis after caring for a young priest with the disease. One of the Salesian priests, a nurse, suggested that Zatti seek the intercession of Mary Help of Christians making a promise that if he was healed, he would devote his life to helping the sick. Zatti willingly made the promise and was healed of tuberculosis. He later said about the event: "I believed, I promised, I was healed."

The young Italian immigrant gave up the idea of the priesthood and became a Salesian Coadjutor Brother so that he could devote himself to service in the medical field. In 1915, at the age of 35, Zatti became the director of the Salesian-run hospital in Viedma, a city in central Argentina. Zatti not only worked in the hospital but also travelled to the peripheries of Viedma and the neighbouring city of Carmen de Patagones to treat people in need and his reputation as a saintly nurse spread throughout that area of Argentina. Zatti always saw Jesus in each of his patients. In 1950, after falling from a ladder, Zatti began to show signs of liver cancer. He continued to work but on 15 March 1951 at the age of 70, he died of the disease.

The fame of his holiness spread quickly and his tomb began to be much venerated. Beatified by St John Paul II on 14 April 2002, Blessed Artemide Zatti was the first non-martyr Salesian Coadjutor to be raised to the honours of the altars. The Rector Major has asked the Salesian communities worldwide to celebrate a special Mass of thanksgiving on 11 October 2022 for the gift of another saint to the Salesian Family. Let us learn about this new saint in the Salesian family, and his virtues and pray through his intercession for the gift of holiness to all the Sisters of our Province.

SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It takes place from 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, to 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "**Listen to the Voice of Creation.**" The intention is to raise awareness of the need to listen to the voice of all creation...the voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change, the voices of those who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land and the voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. Let us protect and promote our common home in all its forms through creative initiatives and report the same to the Laudato Si Platform.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

As you already know, the international conference on the Contribution of the FMA to Education (1872-2022) paths, challenges and perspectives, will be held in Auxilium, Rome from 25 to 30 September 2022. Sr Adaikalasamy Jacintha from Casa Ersilia Canta, Rome will be attending the conference on behalf of our Province and a few others will participate online.

SALESIAN FAMILY MEET

SPCSA is organising the Salesian Family Meet in Goa from 13th evening to 15 September 2022 along with our Rector Major. The FMA Provincials too will have the PCI meet on 13 September in the Salesian Sisters' Community in Goa. I will be leaving for the meeting on 12 September and returning on 16 September 2022. I request your prayers for the success of this regional meet.

SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS CONFERENCE

Sr Susairaj Mary Sheila and Sr Fernando Amudha, the Delegates of the Salesian Co-operators along with Mr K. E. Arockia Arasu, the South East Asia Coordinator and Mr Marshall, Provincial Council member, will be participating in the Southern Zonal Conference of Salesian Co-operators to be held in the Provincial House, Matunga, Mumbai from 17 to 19 September 2022. We wish them a fruitful experience at the conference!

COURSES AND SEMINARS

Sr Samuel Gloria Navaneetham will be attending the Spiritual renewal course from 01 to 30 October 2022 and a three months course from 03 January to 15 March 2023, at Dhyana Sadhana, Mysuru. Let us accompany her with our prayers for a fruitful experience!

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- ✠ To Sr Sebastian Philomena at the passing away of her elder sister Mrs Maria Rose (81) on 5 August
- ✠ To Sr Barnabas Sabina and Sr Susanna at the passing away of their brother-in-law Mr Francis Xavier (83) on 7 August
- ✠ To Fr K.M. Jose, Provincial and the Confreres of the Province of Chennai at the death of Fr P.P. George (88) on 13 August
- ✠ To Sr Mudiappaswamy Nirmala at the demise of her brother-in-law Mr I.A.L. Money (80) on 14 August
- ✠ To Sr Devasahayam Cecilia at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr Arulswamy (86) on 28 August and Mr Pauline (81) the younger brother-in-law on 12 September
- ✠ To Sr Irudayanathan Agatha and Sr Helen at the demise of their nephew Mr James Pinto (40) on 6 September
- ✠ To Sr Anjalan Stella Rani at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr Arockianathan (50) on 7 September

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- SEPTEMBER 2022

- 04 † Sr Maria Dal Corso (1986)
- 06 † Sr Elizabeth Gullery (1996)
- 12 † Sr Giacomina Borrini (1972) & Sr Maude Hale (2009)

- 13 † Sr Judith Aranha (2011)
19 † Sr Stefanina Stefani (1949)
23 † Sr Maddalena Marengo (1978) & Sr Margaret Yettukuri (2004)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2022

- 10 - Vocation Orientation Programme, Sri Lankan Communities
13 - PCI Meet, Goa
14 - SPCSA, Salesian Family Major Superiors' Meet, Goa
23 - Webinar on Artificial Intelligence to VTC Students
28 - Quiz Competitions on 'Seeds Sown in India a Century Ago' to school students
30 - Centenary Renewal Programme, Online

On 5 September we celebrated Teachers' Day which is of special significance to us since education is at the heart of our vocation and educational institutions are the largest youth ministry setting in our province. On this happy occasion, I sincerely thank all the teachers in our formal and non-formal institutions, for the committed and enthusiastic manner in which they live their vocation as teachers. We know that people grow and give their best in an environment that is calm, respectful, appreciative, motivating, supportive and caring. This is the typical Salesian atmosphere that should reign in our institutions. It is precisely this kind of environment that fosters the "family spirit" that Don Bosco insisted should be the hallmark of a Salesian institution. Let us recommit ourselves to building a happy and uplifting environment in our institutions in which staff and students can bloom.

*I wish you a fruitful Season of Creation
&
a Happy Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows!*

*Yours affectionately,
Sr. Nirmala Lazar*

**Sr Nirmala Lazar FMA
Provincial**

