

FMA CHENNAI

VIBRATIONS

MARCH - JUNE 2022





FIRST PROFESSION - 24.05.2022



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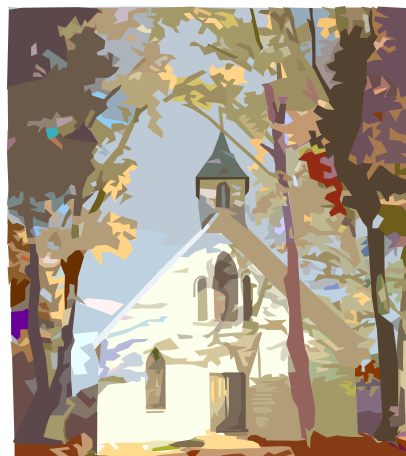
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EDITORIAL

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” Col 3:17

We are at the threshold of the celebrations of 100 years of FMA presence in India, the humble shall be exalted, and so we can raise a spontaneous hymn of thanksgiving to the Almighty Father and our Mother, Mary Help of Christians along with our Founder St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello for guiding us through these 100 years. A tiny seed sown in 1922 has now blossomed into Seven Provinces from down South to the North and as wide into the East and West of India. We have no words except to express our millions thanks for all His marvellous works. The entire FMA India is as busy as bees in preparation for the Celebrations. As we journey looking ahead, together with the young let us live this moment of our history with greater enthusiasm, in winning souls for God and caring for the poor, the needy and the downtrodden and fulfilling the dream of our founders. Let our work among the young, education for the development of the youth be even greater with much fervour to mark the dawn of the Century. Let us hold our spirits high and march ahead with abundant gratitude and love.

Sr. Juliana Victor

DIVYADHANAM - MANIKANDAM

ANNUAL RETREAT

“God’s love is like an ocean. Unless we feel and experience it, we cannot enjoy its depth”

The Easter octave is an occasion set apart to taste and see the depth of God’s love. Rev. Fr. Franklin SDB from Kavarapettai Salesian Seminary Chennai, preached the retreat for twelve second year novices, ten first year novices, seven postulants and eight sisters who made their annual retreat from 16th May 2022 to 23rd May 2022. The preacher animated us to deepen our love for God through his inspiring thoughts on discipleship, vows, religious life, the seven habits of an FMA and the viruses that affect one’s religious life and how to overcome it. It made us to reflect more on oneself and our relationship with God and others. Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the provincial of INT Province, through her inspiring thoughts on ‘Blessedness’ made us feel how blessed we are in all the ways. The eight days were an awesome one to be with the Lord and experience Him in prayer. Having experienced such a great love of God during our retreat and at the conclusion of our retreat we had the God experience in reality.

On 23rd morning, the postulants were initiated into novitiate during a meaningful prayer service. Seven Postulants entered the Novitiate. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the Provincial of INT, entrusted the novices to Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, the Novice Formator. The Novices were all welcomed by the Novice Formator and wished them a fruitful experience during their Novitiate formation. It was also a happy moment and for us first year novices who entered into their second year of Novitiate.

FIRST PROFESSION

With the theme, “In Him, with Him, to be fruitful” the twelve second year novices pronounced their first vows on 24th May 2022 in Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirapalli. It was also a privilege for them to make their vows on the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians. The day dawned with God’s choicest blessing through wonderfully animated Morning Prayer. It was indeed a blessing for the novices to have their parents and their relatives for their profession.

At 10.30 a.m., the Solemn Eucharistic celebration began with the procession of the novices with their parents. The parents and the novices were given a solemn welcome with Floral Aarathi.



The Eucharist was

solemnized by Most Rev. Dr. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj D.D., Bishop of Tiruchirapalli and concelebrated by twenty Priests from various congregations of Salesians, MSFS, Holy Cross, OCD and diocesan Priests. The bishop during his homily, shared on religious life, its boon and bane.

The profession ceremony took place after the homily, where we marched towards the altar as warriors of Christ to pronounce our evangelical vows with greater zeal and authenticity in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, bearing God’s love to everyone especially to the young. It was a wonderful moment of prayer and grace as they said Yes to His call and received the Crucifix and the FMA Constitutions.



The Provincials welcomed the novices into the Institute in the name of the Mother General Rev. Sr. Chiara Cazzuola by giving the lighted lamps and they were applauded by the gathering. During the post communion we sang the praises of God

as our Blessed Mother and raised our gratitude to God. The melodious choir of the novices from Divyadhanam community, led by Sr. Susai Anthonia, spread an air of holy joy and celebration. With immense love and profound gratitude to God and to our Blessed Mother, the twelve newly professed sisters expressed their gratitude to the Provincials, Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret INT, and Rev. Sr. Lazar Maria



Nirmala INM, Novice Formator Sr. Michael Cruz, assistants Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha and Sr. Sebastian Princy, community sisters and all other sisters for their prayerful support and for accompanying us throughout their formative journey. They also thanked all the novices, workers and all those who were present for making the day a memorable one.

The Holy Mass was followed by the main celebrant His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj D.D., the bishop of Tiruchirapalli wishing the newly professed sisters and gave his special blessings. The religious from the neighbouring communities wished and blessed the newly professed sisters. After a sumptuous meal at the novitiate house, the parents, relatives and well wishers went home happy and contented.

Sr. Sebastian Princy.

SACRED HEART HOME, KATPADI

JUNIORS ANIMATION AND RENEWAL OF VOWS

“Set me like a seal on your heart”

We, the twenty seven junior sisters of Chennai Province had a spiritual animation on 21st May followed by recollection and renewal of vows. We thank our dear Mother Provincial for introducing Rev. Sr. Sponsa Mary to us. Sr. Sponsa along with her brother animated the whole day and enabled us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. She invited us to fix our gaze on Jesus and to live our decision faithfully till the end of our lives. Throughout the animation Sr. Sponsa and her brother broke the Word of God and made us to reflect about our vocation, which helped us to strengthen our faith-response. On the following day we had our recollection animated by Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj Swaminathan, Niraivagam Don Bosco Institute of Psychological Services. The

preacher enlightened us through his inspiring and creative session on the Spirituality of FMA. He made us to understand that the spirituality of FMA is a call to commitment and a ministry [Commitment = Meaning; Ministry = Contribution]. He also shared about the Profile and basic belief, which really made us to think about our vocation seriously and commit our lives for God Joyfully:

1. Cry of Need = Religious Vocation
2. Joyful proclamation = Happy Consecration
3. FMA Hallmark = Sense of Gratitude
4. Gifts not shared = Become Burdens
4. Adapting = Relevance
5. Happy Communities = More Followers
6. Hope and Trust = Future Promise.

He also conducted a short test on Spiritual skills for renewal, an inventory for self – evaluation, which enabled us to know the interpretation of the type of spiritual category we belong. These two days of ‘stay with Jesus’ was a unique and experiential one which enabled us to prepare ourselves to commit totally to Jesus alone. On 22nd afternoon at 3.00 pm we were happy to renew our vows and give our self to Jesus during the Holy Eucharist as we renewed our vows, and we were called upon to focus on the person of Jesus. This renewal programme was very useful to us as we continue our journey in this challenging world.

Sr. Buela Mercy Joseph

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God." "Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts." "God's love calls us to move beyond fear.

Pope Francis on Hope

AUXILIUM COLLEGE, VELLORE

COMMITTED TO CHRIST FOR ETERNITY

Katharine Hepburn, a great celebrity says, “Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything.”

Imbued with the self sacrificing and self giving love of Christ Sr. Paul Ezhilarasi and Sr. Lawrance Daisy Rachel Monica in accordance with the words of the Scripture “Sacrifice and offering you don’t desire, but you have given me an open



ear. Then I said ‘**Here I am**’; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.’ I delight to do your will O my God; your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40: 6a, 7-8).

Yes, 25th May 2022 dawned with the joyous note of the love for the Lord and praises of Mary Help of Christian, the Mother and guide of every Salesian vocation, as the Province of INM celebrated with great joy and contentment of heart, the generous and perpetual offering of Sr. Paul Ezhilarasi and Sr. Lawrance Daisy in Auxilium College Katpadi. The day was made significant and joyous one for them right from the start of the day. The Morning Prayer was animated meaningfully, having specific symbolic offerings which symbolized their consecration to the Lord, such as - Bible, Constitutions, Crucifix, bowl, lily and headphone which signified the Will of God; Rules of the Institute; oneness with Christ; emptiness of life filled with God’s grace; purity; mission among the young in the modern era respectively. To rejuvenate their

first love, their profession response song was sung, which portrayed “God as the potter, who shapes and gives life to each individual”. The prayer moments were apt that rekindled in them their profession ardour ***“With Christ, for the young...”***

At the end of the prayer service Mother Provincial Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala honoured Sr. Paul Ezhilarasi and Sr. Lawrance Daisy with broaches.



At 11.30 am began the solemn Eucharistic Celebration in the Auditorium with all the Catholic faculty, non-teaching and students in the campus gathered to witness the great event of perpetual profession. The celebration started with the introduction to the life of the sisters wherein the significance of the celebration was highlighted and they were acclaimed for their daring and irrevocable decision to continue in the footsteps of Master Jesus Christ. As the joyous entrance hymn was intoned while the throng of



priests came in a procession followed by the former Archbishop of Chennai, Mylapore, Emeritus Most Rev. Chinnappa, the main celebrant of the jubilation, was welcomed with kumba-aarathi. Then the two sisters and

their parents were traditionally welcomed to the Eucharistic Banquet with sandal paste and kumkum. During the sermon the main celebrant highlighted to the Sisters and the faithful three important aspects - the purpose of human life, in becoming another Christ; to live the family spirit, the source of true communion - the essence of Salesian family and the ways to be a joyful religious in day to day life.

The significant moment of the day began after the sermon when the two sisters committed themselves in perpetuity to Christ in the presence of the faithful by pronouncing the formula of vows. Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, Provincial of INM, received their vows in the name of Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, with great joy and welcomed them to the institute as its permanent members. Then with joy bubbling in their hearts Sr. Ezhil and Sr. Daisy sang the Magnificat. The two newly perpetually professed sisters after communion, thanked, all the persons who played an important role in their lives and who made their day a memorable one by their valuable contribution. Finally after the final hymn the sisters and their family members captured their valuable moments and proceeded for the lunch. Sumptuous meal was served to all who came to make the day a blessing for them. Everyone returned home rejoicing and praising the Lord for his goodness and benevolence in guiding and making the two young sisters to serve him in the young.



NATIONAL ACADEMIC CO-ORDINATORS MEETING

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all “- Aristotle.

Education in a Don Bosco institution in its broader sense is a shift towards more holistic and comprehensive approach in which education for social transformation is strongly advocated. We embark on the new academic year with the **National Seminar** for the Educators across the Country. The National Seminar was held from 3 to 5 June 2022 and totally 38 members participated from all the Indian Provinces, 2 from ING, 3 from INS, 3 from INC, 3 from INK, 3 from INB, 3 from INT, 21 from INM.

The seminar was inaugurated with the morning prayer guided by Sr.Xavier Wency, followed by the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel SDB, Provincial of Chennai Province



followed by a graceful prayer dance performed by the students of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, and with the Lighting of oil lamp by the dignitaries the programme commenced.

The Academic co-ordinators from all the provinces were welcomed and honoured by Sr. Clara Swaminathan INC PCI National General Coordinator. Sr. Josephine Antonyraj INM National Co-ordinator for education and the chief co-ordinator of the conference gave the dynamics of the conference. Sr. Maria Nirmala Lazar (Provincial & PCI President) delivered the presidential address. In her inaugural speech she thanked and praised all the Principals for their dedicated and committed



service. She exhorted them to impart value-based education along with curricular and co-curricular activities. It was a three-day animation with three sessions per day.

Day 1

Session I was animated by **Fr (Dr) Joseph Jeyaraj**

SDB, Director of Niraivagam, Chennai on the topic **“Exigencies of psychological support in Academic Institutions”**

Session II was animated by **Fr (Dr) John Alexander SDB**, Secretary & Rector, Sacred Heart College, on the topic **“Global Pact on Education”**

Session III was animated by **Fr (Dr) Joe Arun SJ**, Director, LIBA, Chennai, on the topic **“Management Skills in Education”**

Day 2

Session I was animated by **Fr V.M. Thomas SDB**, Former Provincial of Guwahati Animator Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore on the theme **“Educational Leadership - Challenges & Responses”**

Session II was animated by **Fr. Xavier Pakkam SDB**, Sr. Anthony Raj Christina INM, Sr. Anandaraj Jaya Shanthi INM, Sr. Gloria Ferrao INB, Sr. Clara



Swaminathan INC, Sr. Tessy Potteparambil ING, Sr. Joplin Suchiang INS, Sr.

Devamani Gummadi INK on the theme **“E-Intervention in managing Schools”**. The talks were the real sources to enlighten, empower and educate.

Day 3

The day began with the Holy Eucharist at Kodambakkam



Provincial house. It was the feast of Pentecost, Rev. Fr. Xavier Pakkam SDB the Rector of Don Bosco Egmore, Chennai, celebrated the Holy Eucharist, and in his homily he emphasised on the gifts and fruits that we have received from the Holy Spirit and how to use them in our educative mission. After Mass we had breakfast together and then proceeded with our programme.

Session I was animated by **Mr Britto-Director-Vaanmughil**, Thirunelveli on the topic **“Constitutional Right to Education”**. He spoke on the present situation of the Country and the involvement of the educators to educate the children in the concept of the constitutional right to education. He frankly spoke about the arising dangers towards minority groups and thus it is the responsibility of every educator to face them.

Session II was animated by **Mr Prince Gajendra Babu**, on the topic **“Challenges to National Education Policy 2022”**. He took up the session in explaining the Challenges towards the New Educational Policy.

Session III was animated by **Sr Christina Antonyraj**, Academic Co - ordinator of INM, on the topic **“Educational Policy & Guidelines of INM”**.

Precisely and clearly she explained the education norms in the school managements.

Session IV was animated by **Fr Thaddeus Gregory SDB** South Asian Co-ordinator, for Higher Educational Institutions, Principal Don Bosco college, CEO Bosco soft

technologies Yellagiri on the topic “**Education 4.0 & Net Working Strategies**”. He enlightened the gathering on the education 4.0 of which many were not aware.

VALEDICTORY

The valedictory function was co-ordinated by Sr Devamani INK. Sr. Emelia of ING began the started with a prayer. Sr. Josephine Antonyraj the PCI Co-ordinator for education recapitulated the 3 days programme through a power point. Sr. Nirmala Lazar, the provincial congratulated and appreciated the successful accomplishment of the three day animation and invited the gathering to be an educator with an attitude of kindness and gentleness.

There was an evaluation session before concluding the entire programme and where everyone shared the benefits, views and suggestions. Sr. Teresa Santiago of INT proposed vote of thanks and appreciation for the success of three days seminar. The National Seminar came to an end by paying homage to Mary.



Sr. Anthony Raj Mary Josephine

St. MARY'S CONVENT, VELLORE

PRINCIPALS AND HEADMISTRESS MEETING

“Leadership is about action but not about position”. I won’t walk ahead of you, instead I will walk beside you and together we will do great things”.



To make the above words come true the Province of Chennai (FMA) organized a one day training session for all the Headmistresses and Principals of various schools at St. Mary's convent, Vellore on 18th June 2022,

under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Maria Nirmala Lazar, Provincial - INM. The session was started with a short prayer animated by Rev.Sr. Alphonse Amaldoss, the Headmistress of St. Mary's school, Vellore. Sr. Felix Arockiasamy, Headmistress of St. Joseph's Convent, Arni welcomed the gathering and honoured, Sr. Maria Nirmala Lazar, Provincial and the Academic coordinator, Sr. Anthonyraj Christina with a shawl. The day's event began with the key note address by Mother Provincial. She exhorted us, by the message of Pope Francis on the theme “Global compact on education”. The following points inspired us to be good educators:

- ✚ Take initiative to promote the value of care for others.
- ✚ Education makes us to become a creator of fraternity, peace and justice.

✚ Education moves us forward in building up a civilization of harmony and unity.

At 11.30 am the Holy Eucharist was celebrated which was followed by lunch. The afternoon session was led by the Province Academic co-ordinator Rev. Sr. Christina Anthonyraj, who explained the role and responsibilities of the Headmistresses in keeping up the guidelines of new National Educational Policy, and at the end we discussed about the centenary celebrations of FMA (INM). The day's event came to an end with thanking God the Almighty.

Sr. Arockiasamy Celine Mary

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

ANMARUDAI

CHILD PROTECTION

A motivational Seminar on Child Protection Policy was organized by Sr. Susai Josephine Rani, the Correspondent. Various Experts in psychology, health and hygiene and Law were invited. The sisters, teachers, parents and students of Auxilium Matriculation School participated in the Seminar. Mr. Baskaran, the Psychologist spoke on mental health, studies and discipline. And he emphasized that the Correspondent, parents and teachers are the main point of reference for the students with regard to disciplinary or moral code. He enlightened the young students on how certain healthy habits in life like getting up early in the morning, drinking clean water after brushing the teeth were helpful tips to keep one's body and mind

healthy and clean. Mr. Kamalakannan, the health Inspector of Kolappalur spoke on the elimination of leprosy in our country and informed that the Edis mosquitoes cause Dengue fever. He exhorted everyone to add fruits and vegetables to their diet.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan, the health Inspector of Peranamallur said that 7th April was declared as World Health Day from 1948 onwards. This year's motto was 'Our Earth, our Health'. Fresh air, fresh water, fresh food and cereals promote good health. The Village Block health supervisor Mr. Anbarasan explained in detail about self cleanliness. Mr. Sudakar, a Lawyer spoke about Child Protection Policy. And stressed the importance of giving awareness to children when abused or involved with bad touch by others how one should react and he also encouraged the students to write their complaints in the complaint box and call the Child help line 1098. Ms Divya proposed the vote of thanks. Sr. Susai Josephine Rani, the Correspondent thanked the dignitaries for the support offered.

The day dawned with much enthusiasm for the students of Auxilium Matriculation School as most of them brought some samples of food, fruits or some delicacies made out of grams, serials or nuts prepared at home. They were eager and explained the nutrient benefits. The programme began by welcoming the Correspondent and Principal, Sr. Susai Josephine Rani and the sisters. A prayer of praise for nature and ecosystem was said by Sr. Arockiam Santhana Mary, followed by a song of 'Laudato Si' played on audio. Sr. Barnabas Sabina and Sr. Felix Hilda went around seeing the exhibited nutrients brought by the students from class I to VII and appreciated their efforts. The Correspondent appreciated the students and their parents. She also appreciated the teachers and the sisters for organizing the programme efficiently. After the vote of thanks everyone dispersed happily to their respective classes. It was an unforgettable programme for the students.

Sr. Josephine Rani Susai

SUMMER CAMP – EVENING COACHING CENTRES

Venkatesan Patti 27.5.2022:

On 27th May 2022, we started our Summer Camp at Venkatesan Patti. The Evening coaching class coordinator Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary along with Mrs.Kanickai Mary



reached the place at 9.30a.m. The children gathered near Sai Baba temple. They were 38 of them who took part in in the camp. The children were divided into four groups. The camp started with a fervent “Hail Mary”. Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary, Youth Pastoral coordinator explained the purpose of the summer camp to the children. Then the programme was started with a small group activity to draw a chart on the chosen theme as a group. Each one gave their best contribution to their group. Sr. Arockiam Santhana Mary exhorted the children to present a skit on



various topics such as Children’s rights, Child labour, Role of the parents, Role of the relatives in Child’s protection. The Children staged wonderful skits on the chosen topics. Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary explained about the child Helpline 1098.

Games were conducted and recreation songs were taught. The outcome of the programme is that the Children have learnt to work together, solve problems, count, speak, read and write. The children were served snacks.

Velapadi Camp 27.5.2022:

We reached the Velpadi Camp in the evening. The Children gathered in St.Mary's church campus. We had a short prayer session before we started the activities. About 30 children were present while others had gone out to their relative's house. We divided the



children into two groups. We taught them recreation songs and conducted group games for the children. We kept the children active by making them collect the newspaper clippings on child abuse and child trafficking and made them to speak about the incidents. We realized that they were very much aware of child abuse



through social media, Television, etc. We explained to the children about the Good and Bad touch. The children performed well in acting out a mime on Good and bad touch. We had a debate on how to create Peace in us and around us and the teams did very well. The

children were also asked to speak about their future plan. We were so happy to hear about their ambitions and of their future goals. The camp helped the children to work together and to express their ideas in the group. We encouraged the children to do their best in life. We assured our prayers and support to them. The children enjoyed the snacks given to them.

Avaniyapuram 28.5.2022:

We went in the morning to Avaniyapuram to conduct a summer camp. Nearly 30 children had gathered in the school campus. We started with a prayer song. We divided the children into two groups. Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary taught basic mathematics for standard VI to X children. Mrs.Kanickai Mary taught



standard I to V children. We made them to read loudly and write without spelling mistakes. After that we conducted games for the children after which we gave awareness on child abuse. At the end we distributed snacks to the children.

Avaniyapuram Colony 28.5.2022:



“Run, Jump, but do not sin” said St.John Bosco. We gathered the children of Avaniyapuram colony in the school campus who were about sixty in number. We started our camp with a short prayer. Mrs.Kanickai Mary interacted with the children on Leadership. Children spontaneously expressed their thoughts.



We taught recreations songs and conducted games and encouraged the children and made them very happy. The children were encouraged to enact on the rights of children, Child labour, Duties of the Parents and support of the relatives in the family to give

them awareness on the above mentioned issues. Children too beautifully brought out the themes through the skits. We gave awareness on child abuse, and the principles of children's parliament. We explained to the children that they should enjoy their childhood and that it should not be destroyed due to their ignorance. We concluded with a prayer. We thanked God for His generosity, and the opportunity he provides for the good of His children. We distributed snacks to the children.

Anmarudai and Anmarudai colony 30.5.2022

Anmarudai and Anmarudai colony children gathered in the Middle school at Anmarudai. About thirty

eight children participated in the camp. Mrs.Kanickai Mary animated the prayer at the start of the sessions.

Sr.Josephine Rani, animator of the community gave the introductory talk on being grateful for even little things. Sr.Arockiam



Santhana Mary taught recreation songs. Then the children participated actively in the creative games. We explained about child abuse to the children. We also spoke about Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act - POCSO to the children. At the end, we distributed biscuits to the children.

Avaiyanthanal and Melanur 30.5.2022

We reached Avaiyanthanal in the evening and children from Melanur too joined the group. Nearly fifty five children were present for the camp. Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary began the camp with a fervent prayer. We asked the children to share their ideas of a leader. Each one of them



expressed their views spontaneously. We asked about their ambitions and desires. We gave news papers cuttings and based on those incidents, we asked the children to act out the reality of the children in the society. The children were asked to take an oath to respect girl children. We conducted games. We distributed snacks to the children.

Nariyambodi 31.5.2022:

In Nariyambodi centre, about 40 children gathered in the school campus. Some of the children had gone to the field to help their parents. Few of them had left to their relative's house to spend their holidays. We cleaned the school campus and started our programme with



a short prayer. We started the programme by teaching recreation songs, followed by creative games. We gave awareness to the children about child abuse. We gave some tips to protect themselves from abuse. We asked the children to share about their ambitions and goals in life. At the end we distributed snacks and concluded the camp.

VOCATION CAMP

“You are my beloved with whom I am well pleased.” It is indeed a great opportunity for us the sisters of Mangala Geetham Community, Anmarudai to help the young girls to discern their vocation as we had been following a few of them for a short time as we are involved in imparting catechism in Gengapuram Parish. Among them eight girls joyfully joined the vocation camp from 1st to 5th June in Auxilium school campus, Katpadi. Sr.Arockiam

Santhana Mary accompanied them all the five days. As we have sown in them the seed of vocation it was an exciting exposure for the girls from Gengapuram Parish. They learnt the Bible verses by heart and they could spontaneously relate with the others. Moreover, this



was their first meeting with the salesian sisters. On 5th June, the young girls started their journey back along with Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary. We, the sisters of Anmarudai express our sincere thanks to the Parish Priest of Gengapuram and the children's parent.

Sr.Arockiam Santhana Mary

MARY IMMACULATE

BLOOD CAMP

“For it is in giving that we receive”

On 15th April, a Blood Donation Camp was held in Auxilium ITI, Mary help of Christian's church Tirupattur. The blood donation made us to recall Jesus who shed His blood for the redemption of human kind. The sisters donated blood on that day. Sr. Christina Anthonyraj, the animator of Mary Immaculate convent and Sr. Anita Wilson willingly donated blood. Inspired by Sr. Christina, animator Sr. Selvi Rayappan donated blood and shared that in her life she has received certificates for various extracurricular activities but never thought of donating blood to the needy persons. Sr. Selvi determined to be a blood donor hereafter. Mr. Sathiya, an auto driver was also inspired seeing the sisters and he too donated blood. We thanked God for the gift of life. We returned home joyfully with the appreciation certificate.



COME AND SEE

“Harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few”

On 10th April we had the “Come and See” programme in Mary Immaculate Girls Higher Secondary School. Fourteen girls were selected from 9th to 12th Std and they participated in the vocation day. The programme was begun



with a short prayer by Rev. Sr. Anitha Wilson. Rev. Sr. Jeyaseeli welcomed the gathering. Rev. Sr. Rayappan Selvi, vocation Promoter briefed the event of the day and explained about the nature of the call and hurdles in the vocational journey.



Rev. Sr. Victoria Joseph explained about the call of St. Don Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello and the present state of Religious life and the pastoral activities. The animator Rev. Sr. Christina gave the message to the students about



vocation. Everyone took an oath before the image of Blessed Mother Mary with a lamp lit in their hand. Sisters motivated all the participants to attend the vocation camp which would be held in the month

of June in Katpadi. The program ended with a short prayer and students were given a book on St. Mary Mazzarello which would help them to deepen the knowledge of the institution.

Sr. Rayappan Selvi

ST. MARY'S CONVENT

EVER GREEN EARTH

“Love the earth as you love yourself”

Charm Environment - Warless World”

The future of the World lies in the hands of the younger generation. Changing the young minds will lead to a strong and stable future.



With this hope filled vision, our Salesian Sisters of Chennai Province organized various activities to bring awareness on safeguarding our Mother earth and also to enhance the creativity among children.

The following activities were held to celebrate Eco festivity, at St.Mary's



Girls Hr.Sec.School, and the Primary section of both Nursery Primary and Elementary schools.



VI to IX

09.02.2022	VI	- Singing
10.02.2022	VII	- Drawing
10.02.2020	VII	- Craft from wastes
11.02.2022	VIII	- Poem Writing
11.02.2022	IX	- Vegetable Carving
16.02.2022	Teachers	- Veg. Food Fest
18.02.2022		- Photo Edition

Nature always adds colour to life and spirit. The Hr. Sec. school children, the Nursery Primary and the Elementary school children were motivated and given awareness to eco-friendly system, through which the children were helped to think

and act creatively. According to their age group they were assigned with a competition for the English primary.

- I - Flower crown
- II - Cap (Green)
- III - Leaf stick
- IV - Green ribbon
- V - Green Dress

The students were creative in presenting themselves



according to the topic given to their class, and the Animator and Correspondent Sr. Regina Rathinaswamy took part in the celebration and appreciated the staff and the children and appreciate their creativity and to put it best use in future.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Tamil Medium Primary school children had their animation of Fancy dress, Cooking of natural food with cereals, and the day was celebrated joyfully and the children were happy to come in colourful attires.



NURSERY AND PRIMARY

Teachers and the students participated in the various activities, with great enthusiasm and creativity. The Eco festivity made the children more active and also creative .





The festivity was a grand success through the encouragement given by our correspondent and Headmistresses and the teachers. The Headmistresses of the three schools had their own initiatives and creativity and according

to the ability of the children the day was celebrated to motivate them to safe guard our mother earth and the environment, and to build up a better world to live.



Sr. Rajendran Selvarani

AUXILIUM COLLEGE, VELLORE

HUMAN CHAIN FOR PEACE

In order to extend our solidarity with our fellow human beings, in the College Campus along with the NSS unit of the College, we had the Human Chain praying for Peace between Russia and Ukraine. Prayers were offered for the two countries to end the war and to live in peace and harmony. Along with the hostel students in



the evening we had a silent candle light procession to express our sorrow for the biggest war in Europe since World War II.

HAIR DONATION DRIVE

On 9th May 2022 about 170 Students participated in the hair donation drive organized by the NSS Unit of Auxilium College in collaboration with Adyar Cancer Institute and Exodus Exports.



CYBER SAFETY AND SECURITY

Awareness Programme on Cyber Safety and Security was organized in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Police Department, Vellore District. Mr. Palani, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Katpadi presided over the function. Dr. (Sr.) Amala Valarmathy, vice-Principal, Shift II, felicitated the gathering. Mr Arjith, Sub-Inspector of Police, Viruthempet Police Station and Mr. Murali, Sub-Inspector of Police, Cyber Crime served as Resource Persons. The programme was organized to sensitize the



Students on cyber safety and risk involved in unnecessary access to the social media. Details related to the SOS App - Kavalan, Helpline Number and cyber cell mail ID were shared. During the interactive session, doubts raised by the students were clarified by the police authorities. The programme was highly informative, useful and helpful for the girl students to manage at the time of crisis. The NSS Programme Officers Dr.Amutha and Ms.Gayathri were present. Student Volunteer Ms.Mitchelle proposed the vote of thanks.

WALL PAINTING

The bright portraits on the compound wall at the Railway station in Katpadi in Vellore, is not just an isolated exercise of creativity. It is part of an attempt by a group of students of the Department of Visual Communication to prevent people from dirtying walls. A group of 30 students led by a team of teachers, under the leadership of Sr. Juliana Victor, Head of the Department, Assisted by Ms.Radhika, Ms. Saranya, Ms. Priyanga, Shyni and ms.Jerlit Kirupa, Assistant Professors of the Department of Visual Communication, Auxilium College, Vellore, took the initiative of painting the walls of Katpadi

Railway Station.

This is the first time the students from the college are involved in such an exercise, after approval from the Southern Railways. The exercise is to bring the sense of social responsibility in the students. As the railway station is closer to our



college and used by many people every day, we chose this activity. The Paintings on the walls depicted various activities of scouts and guides, including guide flag march, road safety, cleanliness and mountaineering coinciding with 75 years of scouts and guides formation. Other themes painted include wildlife protection and nature conservation.

During the third week of the month of May 2022, the students were invited to paint the walls in the Vellore Central Jail which was another wonderful opportunity to exercise their talent and creativity.



The walls were painted with motivational thoughts and images in order to inspire, motivate the inmates of the prison a positive approach to life.

EAT RIGHT AUXILIUM - 22

The 'Eat Right Campus' initiative led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India - FSSAI which aims to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable food in campuses such as schools, universities, colleges, workplaces, hospitals, tea estates, etc. across the country. The objective is to improve the health of the people and the planet and promote social and economic development of the nation. The 'Eat Right Campus' initiative was taken up in our institution



in follow up of the project 'Eat Right India'. The college inaugurated the 'Eat Right

Campus' on 17th May 2022 by Mr. P. Kumaravel Pandian I.A.S, Vellore. The motive of the program was to support and ensure safe, healthy, and sustainable food for the students.



The following activities were initiated as part of this event:

1. Resource Talk on Food safety and Adulteration
2. Food Fest “Orgbite -100”
3. Resource talk “Eat Right to perform Better” and Debate

Day: 1 - 17/05/2022

Inauguration by the District Collector, Vellore. Thiru. P. Kumaravel Pandian I.A.S

Session: 1 & 2 Food Safety and Adulteration - Food Safety Officers, Vellore.



Day: 2 18/05/2022 Food Fest “Orgbite -100”



Day: 3: 19/05/2022

Session 1: Resource talk on “Eat Right to Perform Better” Ms. B.Manimegalai, Senior Lecturer and dietetics, CMC, Vellore



Session2: Debate



Ms. Sangeetha Rani
Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry

AUXILIUM CONVENT, NEGOMBO.

YOUTH FEST

On 17th March 2022, the community of Auxilium Convent, Negombo, organized a Youth Fest for the Oratorians and vocationable girls. The programme began at 8.00 a.m welcoming the youth with great joy. Forty-three lively girls took part in the celebration. After the registration, we had the Eucharistic celebration creatively animated by Sr. Madushika Rathnayaka. The celebrant for the Holy Eucharist was Fr. Balendran a Rosarian priest. During the introduction, children carried vegetable and fruit plants which they themselves nurtured at home, and kept it in front of the altar with the theme “LAUDATO SI” – CARE FOR COMMON HOME artistically displayed. The prayer of the faithful combined with symbolic offering was melodiously sung by one of the apostolic school girls, while the youth devoutly prayed for the needs of our present world. Soon after Mass, the children assembled in



the hall for the prayer service on the seven goals and ecological virtues of Laudato Si, animated by Sr. Maria. After the meaningful prayer moment, children were given

refreshments which they enjoyed, under the coconut trees amidst the awesome nature.

Soon after the break, Sr. Arokiaswamy Rackel Mary the animator, gave an input session on “LAUDATO SI” – CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME, inviting the youth “to praise God for the gift of our life, especially for the gift of his wonderful creation”. She then reiterated the seven ecological virtues and explained them one by one.

1. Praise- everyday praise God because he is our creator.
2. Gratitude and gratuitousness- thank and be grateful to God for all that he has done for you.
3. Care- take care of yourself, others and nature.
4. Justice- take what is yours and not long for more than what is necessary.
5. Work- hard to protect nature and yourselves.
6. Sobriety- the inner strength to withstand struggles of everyday life.
7. Humility- enough to ask pardon and to relate with God, others and with nature.



After this brief explanation a workshop was conducted and the children were divided into seven groups and given ecological virtues and asked to prepare the action plan to show “how they can live these virtues at home, in school, in the parish and in

society” The girls were very enthusiastic and brought out their ideas creatively through beautiful art and presented it to the participants. This was followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the community. Soon after lunch, we had games, music and dancing. The youth enjoyed to the full. Then followed the presentation of the Action Plan by each group which was mind-blowing. Above all they were all happy and convinced to follow the Action Plan which they prepared themselves.

As a fruit of this Youth Fest, we went to the garden and made them plant the vegetable and fruit plants they brought. With great joy and gratitude, they greeted the Sisters, had a refreshing cup of tea and snack and dispersed contentedly.

Sr. Arulnesan Mariya, Jenatnayaki.



Mary is the powerful, Help of Christians,

It is she who guides our way, Leads us over Life's turbulent waters,

Mary is our beacon light, leads us to eternal light;

We the "Living monuments" of Don Bosco

*Spread across the span of India, raise a hymn of Glory, praise and
thanksgiving, for the countless blessings He has bestowed on us for the past
100 years in the Indian Soil.*

AUXILIUM CONVENT, JAFFNA.

AUXILIUM SUPER MARKET WELCOMES YOU...



On 18th February, was a day of great rejoicing and a day of purchasing. The entire Auxilium Montessori was filled with children in colorful attire along with their parents, heralding a fun-filled marketing day at the Supermarket of Auxilium Pre – school, at Jaffna. The bazaar was a moment when students got an

opportunity to bring forth their inner talents, a platform to build their confidence and explore their inner strength.

It was a joy to watch our kids, dressed up so creatively depicting what they sold. The super market was inaugurated by our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Regno with the cutting of the ribbon and blessing the place, followed with a meaningful prayer moment. It was a very splendid super market with all sorts of vegetables, fruits, coconuts, snacks, balloons and other variety of stuff. The children did their best to sell the items they brought by calling out to the customers. Some of them were very smart and sold their items within an hour. They seemed like experienced vendors with business acumen. We expressed our gratitude to the Sisters, teachers, and the parents for the efforts they put in, for the success of this wonderful event. All the children and their parents went home contented with the collection they made. This event gave the children an idea about trading as well how to face a crowd and courageously stand in front of the people. This also increased their knowledge about the weighing scale,



price tags, value of each item and its importance. This day was a day of educating and also entertaining. We thanked God for the collaboration and contribution of our dear parents and their interest to support their own children and make them feel they are precious. Besides, whatever the little

ones did added to their self-esteem and confidence. The animator thanked the Sisters, teachers, parents and kids for their active participation and innovation.

Sr. Varghese Mary,

THANK YOU

To the Communities

Anmarudai
Salem – Avvai Nagar
Tirupattur – Mary Immaculate
Convent
Vellore – Katpadi, Auxilium
College
SRI LANKA – Negombo
SRI LANKA – Jaffna

Special “Thanks’ to the Contributors

Sr. Anthonyraj Mary Josephine
Sr. Arockiasamy Celine Mary
Sr. Arokiam Santhana Mary
Sr. Joseph Buela Mary
Sr. Rayappan Selvi
Sr. Santhiagu Mary Teresa
Sr. Sebastian Princy
Sr. Stanislaus Mary Dora
Sr. Susai Josephine Rani
Sr. Varghese Mary



SALEM, AVVAI NAGAR - MARIALAYA

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW COMMUNITY

With great joy and gratitude to God and Mary Help of Christians, We opened a new



community, Marialaya at Avvai Nagar, Salem on Saturday 11 June 2022. At 11.00 a.m, the inauguration of the new community commenced with the opening of the house by Rev Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala FMA, Provincial of Chennai followed by the lighting of the oil lamp by dignitaries.

Rev. Fr. Agilan Sarprasatham SDB, Provincial of Trichy blessed the house and with other Salesians presided



over the Eucharistic Celebration. He congratulated the sisters and exhorted to follow Jesus in responding to the needs of people. Sisters from other communities, young people, children, past pupils, well-wishers were present to bless the new community. The main mission of the community would be a Short Stay home for the women at Risk, Vocational training center for women and youth at risk, Integral formation and job placement; community Development and Pastoral and Family Ministry.



In the afternoon Rev. Mother Provincial installed Sr. Mary Dora Stanislaus as the first animator of the new community and introduced Sr. Lourdusamy Jebamani and Sr. Standly Andrew Mary Margaret as the members. We thanked God who enables us to begin this new community at Avvai Nagar for the welfare of the women, youth and children at Risk.



Sr. Mary Dora Stanislaus

OUR INTERCESSORS IN HEAVEN

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SR.ANTHONIAPPAN CELINE



On 24 November 2021 as the sun was setting and the curtains were being drawn down over the nationwide inaugural celebrations of the launching of the Centenary Year of the FMA Presence in India, from the Mother Province of St Thomas, the Apostle, Chennai-INM, dear Sr. ANTHONIAPPAN Celine, slowly, silently, and serenely breathed her last into the arms of the Lord of Life, from the house of St Mary's Convent, Vellore, where the Leader Sr. Teresa Balestra and some of the pioneering missionaries first set foot to begin the FMA Presence in North Arcot District.

Sr.ANTHONIAPPAN Celine was born on 5 December 1938 at Settipatty, Salem District, Tamil Nadu to Mr. Anthoniappan and Mrs. Kulandaimmal as the third child with two sisters and four brothers and was baptised on 8 December with the name *Amalorpavam* in honour of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Most Holy. Endowed with many gifts of nature and grace, *Celina* as affectionately addressed by all in the family, was the pet child, especially of her father. After her High School and Teacher Training Course in Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur, she worked as an efficient Head Mistress and Secondary Grade Teacher in the Elementary School for four years and later in St Joseph's Convent, Arni for one year.

During these years *Celina* nurtured her vocation secretly and joined as an aspirant without informing her parents. Her priest uncle intervened, brought about their reconciliation, and helped her to pursue her goal. She also completed one year of physical education training and joined as a postulant at the age of 26. With her strong devotion to Mother Mary, she overcame all the difficulties of her formative

years. Despite the strong corrections during the novitiate, she was always joyful, jovial and never ceased to make others happy. She made her first profession in 1966.

Sr. Celine Antony was sensitive to the Salesian System of Education and her typically cheerful disposition naturally endeared her to the children making her educative interventions bear much fruit. Her only desire was to live as an authentic, typical Salesian Sister in joyous fidelity to God among the young Sisters and the young people. She had a great sense of belonging to the Church, Institute, Province, and the Community and carried out all her assignments with a great sense of responsibility. She was much interested in helping the young people to discern their vocation and was eager to sow in them the seed of religious vocation.

As a physical education teacher, she was a strict disciplinarian but her educative method was a combination of goodness and firmness. She was a teacher in the classroom and the playground as well as boarding assistant for most of the years of her religious life. She took great pride in training the students in sports and games and made them win at the district and state-level sports and tournaments. She inculcated in the boarders the basic tenets of good manners. With her mere presence and the movements of her eye-balls and two fingers, she taught the children how to behave and what they must do at any given time and place. One past pupil recalls: “When she rolled her eyes in the playground we turned into a fire in our games”.

Struck by ‘cerebral haemorrhage’ in 1987 she was almost at death’s door, recovered miraculously but, like Maria Domenica Mazzarello after typhoid, was never again the same strong physical education teacher. She continued her services and retired in 1996. During her convalescence she was an apostle of hope and courage to the young and old alike visiting the families, counselling, guiding, and encouraging. With her kindness, she touched the lives of all those who came in contact with her in particular her siblings and relatives, priests and bishops, religious and laity, boarders and day scholars, members of the Salesian Family and the Educating community, friends,

benefactors and well-wishers. When she could not speak any more her silent smile fascinated and welcomed everyone.

Her 83 years of life, 55 years of consecrated life in the Salesian Family, and 34 years of painful journey in service and convalescence bear witness to her devotion to the Eucharist and Mother Mary, sense of belonging to the Church, Institute, Province and the community, anxious for the welfare of the young and their future, love for the Sisters and the community life, concern for the family members and those in need. She was fervent in prayer, faithful to duty, punctual at all costs, and welcomed everyone with a smile.

Let us entrust to Sr. Celine all our institutions, our young people, our communities, our need for good and holy vocations, our Province, FMA India, and the Institute. We commend to her the onward journey of the FMA India towards the Centenary and beyond!

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SR ANTHONY AGNES



Early in the morning at 5.45 on 25 May 2022, dear Sr. Anthony Agnes was called by the Lord to her eternal reward from Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, Chennai, South India.

Sr. Anthony Agnes was born on 20 January 1946 to Mr. Antony and Mrs. Amirthammal in Yercaud, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India.

She made her religious profession on 5 August 1974 in Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

Sr. Agnes was undergoing treatment for cancer for more than a year and the past one month her health condition became critical. During the last stages she went through some days of hospitalization, but it proved futile. Finally in the loving company of her community members engaged in praying and singing the praises of Mary Help of Christians all through the night at her bedside, she peacefully surrendered her soul to

the creator after having experienced the comforting presence of the Provincial close to her.

Sr. Agnes was born as the fifth child among eight siblings, four elder and four younger, in the family of nine children, six girls and three boys. Her younger sister, Sr. Maria Lucy, is a Cloistered Nun in the Order of the Discalced Carmelites and is the only surviving member of the family.

Agnes, fondly addressed in the family as 'Agi' grew up in a good catholic atmosphere, loved by her parents, sisters and brothers. Though timid and shy, Agi was calm and cheerful and was distinguished for her piety and love for the poor. From her childhood she trained herself to meet hardships and accept joys and sorrows with equanimity. With her inclination to care for the sick, she nurtured her dream of becoming a nurse, but discerned God's call to be a teacher to build up people and society. So after her SSLC in Salem, she joined the Mary Immaculate Teacher Training Institute in Tirupattur. Her association with the Salesian Sisters while at 'Mornese', Yercaud, introduced her to the life and charism of Don Bosco and Sr. Giacomina Borroni sowed the first seed of salesian vocation in Agnes. The seed was further nurtured by Sr. Rose Thomas and Sr. Magdalene Perez in the Training School at Tirupattur and also by two of her good friends. What particularly attracted her to be an FMA was the kindness of the Sisters expressed through their friendly presence among the young and the joyful family spirit that reigned in the community, manifested specially in the lively recreations.

She joined as an Aspirant in 1970 at Broadway and was pliable in the hands of her formators all through her formation period appreciating every intervention as means to mould herself in every way to meet the challenges of the salesian educative mission. After her profession in 1974, she began her active presence among the children of St Joseph's, Arni, giving herself totally for six years as an assistant to the boarders and teacher in the classroom.

She graduated herself in commerce and also completed her bachelors degree in Education. She was a successful educator in many communities as teacher, headmistress and hostel warden.

She made an impact as part of the team of social workers at the Salesian Beatitude Centre in Vyasarpadi by her commitment and dedication to the poorest, the needy and the marginalized of the slums in and around the place for twelve years. She joyfully served among the women and the poor people, young and old. Her ecclesial sense was evident in her zeal for animating the parish activities. Being with the children in the oratory and evening school was dear to her heart. When the chances were offered, she also got herself involved in the prison ministry bringing comfort and consolation. She was happy to visit the families in the villages strengthening their faith and bringing about greater unity in the family.

Sr. Agnes served also as the administrator in some of the communities of the Province for seven years. She was an able animator in three of the communities for the period of three years in each. During this period she was very happy to work for the child labourers, girls at risk and the tribal children. She was instrumental in the promotion of women through self-help groups. With great empathy she donated herself to educate and empower them towards a better future. Many school dropouts were able to complete their education through her persistent efforts.

Sr. Agnes was deeply spiritual and had a strong Eucharistic and Marian piety. She was sincere, understanding, helpful, cheerful and a loving person of open nature, capable of adapting herself to any situation, diligent and faithful to the duties entrusted to her. She appreciated and enjoyed the trust of her superiors and this confidence sustained her even when the assignments entrusted were difficult. Through every hardship in the mission her heart was at perfect ease and she enjoyed great peace. In all the assignments she carried out in the community she expressed a great sense of responsibility. She was an empathetic and active listener to anyone

who came to confide in her and her effective counselling skills were manifest by the comfort and security experienced by the wounded individual.

Working in collaboration and networking with the brother Salesians for the poor and downtrodden was a welcome and pleasant experience for Sr. Agnes. Her long years of service at the Beatitude Centre bears witness to this special trait of hers, and many Salesians and other priests vouch for her motherly care and delicate sentiments. Sr. Agnes was an unassuming winner of a number of awards especially in the field of social service. She won the Best Social Worker Award from Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, received the district Collector's Award for working for the child labourers in Tuticorin, Mother Teresa Award from the Human Rights Commission in 2013, The Apollo Award for conducting Youth Training Programme, Won the 'Born to Win' Award for her collaboration in the development and empowerment of the trans-genders.

A happy FMA, Sr. Agnes was indeed privileged to end her earthly sojourn after having celebrated the feast of Mary Help of Christians and in the wake of her entering into the bliss of paradise brought to the congregation two permanent members who made their Final Commitment as FMA on 25 May 2022. It was perhaps her best way of expressing gratitude to her beloved Institute for having accompanied her during the 48 years of fruitful apostolic life.

As we celebrate the centenary year of our presence in India, we ask through the intercession of Sr. Agnes to obtain for us many vocations of her calibre to live the religious life to the full and be at the service to the poor.

**HEARTY WELCOME to our
Dear Sr. Celine Jacob FMA
the Visiting Councillor to the
Province of St. Thomas the Apostle
Chennai, S. India.**



BLESSED IS SHE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. PS.118. 26



1922 - 2022



**WELCOME TO FMA INDIA
to the Centenary Celebrations
in INM Province**

Province of St. Thomas, the Apostle, Chennai, S.India



RENEWAL OF THE VOWS - 23.05.2022



PERPETUAL VOWS - 25.05.2022

