



FMA CHENNAI VIBRATIONS

July - October 2022





PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

VIBRATIONS

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EDITORIAL

“Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song” Ps: 95: 2.

Indeed the Lord has worked marvellous deeds, through the Instrumentality of FMA – Sisters in India, let them be made know to the whole world. Let all those who witness give praise and give thanks to Him forever. Yes! We are celebrating 100 joyful years and this generation is lucky to witness the Centenary Celebrations of FMA Presence in India.

We are happy to be back to normal life. The New Academic year began with lots of enthusiasm, the month of June and July buzzing with the activities after the Pandemic. This academic year – a special year, started with preparation for the Centenary Celebrations, with Mary, our Blessed Mother, who guided us right from the beginning of the Institute.

In the month of August we had the twin celebrations of the anniversaries of our Institute and Province. On 5th August the 150 years of the foundation of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians celebrated with zest across the continents for the wonderful Mission accomplished by the Salesian Sisters across the Globe. Our Motherland India Celebrated the 75 years of Independence, the glorious India marching ahead in its tri-colour rejoicing in the freedom attained by the fathers of the Nation and becoming free from the clutches of slavery, domination and degradation.

The month of September blossomed with the Centenary Celebrations of the FMA presence in India. It was a great blessing to have the presence of the Rector Major Most Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Arttime, Sr. Cazzuola Chiara, our beloved Mother General, Sr. Borja Runita, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor for Missions and Sr. Celine Jacob, Visiting Councillor .O! what a beautiful sight to see the Unity in Diversity of the coming together of the Seven Provinces as FMA-PCI, presence of Salesians, lay collaborators, Salesian Family members for this grand and solemn occasion. Grazie to the Six pioneers to South and North who brought the spirit of the Mornese from a trivial land to our big country India. A tiny seed sown has now branched into a mighty big tree.

As we enter into the threshold of a century we march forward together with the young, entrusting to the Lord and our Blessed Mother our FMA-India. Deeply rooted in Christ let us live our commitment in holiness and fruitfulness following the steps of our father Don Bosco and Maria Domenica Mazzarello.

Sr. Juliana Victor FMA

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE FMA PRESENCE IN INDIA

The day dawned in splendid grandeur for INM Province to behold the Centenary Celebration of FMA Presence in India. We expressed our million thanks for our six pioneers for their passion for souls.



The humble and tiny seed of our first missionaries sown on Indian soil has now grown into a gigantic tree, giving fruits of life and shades of joy, peace and love to thousands of youth who flock our Institutions. It was a moment of abundant joy and pride for the Sisters of Chennai Province. During the Lauds Our Mother General offered a symbolic tree with its nests symbolizing all our sisters children, youth and women and all our beneficiaries having found shelter in turn dedicate themselves with greater commitment to revitalize the Charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello responding to the signs of the times in the present socio-ecclesial status. There were special introduction for the Psalms and the intercessory prayers were raised for the Salesian family and the youth.

The Inaugural Holy Eucharist was celebrated in Our Lady of Fatima Church, Kodambakkam by Most Rev. Dr. George Anthonysamy D.D., Arch Bishop of Madras-Mylapore, Rev. Fr. K. M. Jose, Salesian Provincial, Fr. Don Bosco, Vice Provincial, Rev. Fr.



Ignatius, Parish Priest. During his sermon he thanked God for the gift of our six Pioneers who arrived in India in the year 1922. With their Godly life knit with their hard work and sacrifices the FMA presence grew steadily and today there are 7 Provinces. He exhorted us to be renewed and converted and surrender absolutely to the Lord like the Apostle Peter who obeyed the voice of Jesus and cast the net and drew abundant fish.

Most Rev. Dr. George Anthonysamy D.D., ArchBishop of Madras-Mylapore blessed the Centenary Memorial building. Our joy was doubled at the inauguration as the new Human Resource Development Centre building - HRDC, the Centenary Memorial Block of the FMA presence in India was blessed. Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola unveiled the Plaque. The new



memorial block is meant for the integral development of the young people and women especially the poor of our neighbourhood through vocational training, job placement and various social upliftment activities.



At 9.45 a.m. Mother Cazzuola Chiara FMA, Superior General, Sr.Borja Runita, General Councillor for Youth Ministry and Sr.Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor for Missions met the sisters of INM Batch I. Sr. Putti Viagulam accorded an affectionate welcome to Mother Cazzuola Chiara, Sr.Borja Runita, and Sr.Mora Ruth del Pilar for the historical and momentous event of the Centennial Celebrations of our Province. We saluted our six heroic Pioneers, valiant Missionaries and dedicated Sisters, who commenced a Glorious chapter of the history of the **FMA-INM**, that is replete with adventures and achievements. Looking back with deepest gratitude to God and a great sense of humility, we acknowledged the providential hand that gloriously led us during these 100 years. Mother started the talk by calling us beloved in the Lord and she was happy to be with us during this historical and glorious moment of the Institute. Our hearts soared with gratitude for calling us to be a part of this religious family. He has entrusted Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello who were poor, humble and shared their lives with the poor people. She reminded us of the sermon of Arch Bishop who said to awaken the past for the glorious future. Pope Francis during the General Chapter XXIV exhorted the participants not to forget the Origins which were poor and humble. In our lives fatigue and difficulties is essential to generate life.



Mother was very happy to see the vibrant and joyful sisters. The Lord gives us the courage and wisdom to face the challenges to be a prophetic Missionary community, living deeply in the present, with particular attention to the signs of the times. The creative and daring power of the Holy Spirit sends us out and urges us to be heralds of the Gospel with renewed ardour and with the passion for the kingdom of our first FMA missionaries. With humility we commit ourselves and understand the dynamics of today's world in search of God's will. We are guided by Mary, a joyful and hope filled presence that is rooted in Christ in the digital environment. A 'PRESENCE' characterized by docility and Obedience. The Constitution persuades us to care for one another and the young entrusted to us especially the poor and the marginalized. She stressed the importance of focusing our lives on the 'PRESENCE' and the centrality of our lives in Jesus Christ. The difficulty to live in communion is present all over the religious communities since there is a tendency to escape this reality. It was one of the aspects dealt with during the Chapter moments. There is a reluctance to come out of our comfort zone to serve the neediest people. To live honestly and righteously are two major aspects to rediscover the aspect of PRESENCE. We need to be personally renewed and converted to live the present moment and be filled with grace. She appreciated the views of sisters who spoke about the committed lives of our missionaries. She gifted us with an image of Mother Mary safe guarding

our houses with the inscription, “Each daughter carries within herself the traces of the mother”. Mary calls us her daughters and wants us to imitate her by being a “helper” like her filled with grace to serve all the people entrusted to us.



May our intimate relationship with her make her maternal presence visible to the world, today and in the future. It bore the signature of our beloved Mother General which revealed her intense desire to ensure us of the reality of Mother Mary’s presence in our lives. Along with the picture we received Mother Mary’s image, a keychain with the Centenary Logo and a pen as a souvenir of the FMA INDIA Centenary celebrations. The vote of thanks was proposed by Sr. Selvam Maria and concluded with a song in honour of Mother Mazzarello.

At 11.00 a.m. Mother Chiara Cazzuola and the General Councilors interacted with the youth of Chennai Zone and the past pupils. It began with the



guard of honour to welcome our Mother General, the general Councillors Sr. Runita Borja and Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, the Provincial Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, councillors and the sisters.

The Fatima Guide Company led by Ms. Jefila, School Pupil Leader of Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Guard of Honour party offered a traditional welcome to the bravest of the brave. Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola hoisted the centenary flag and declared the Centenary Celebrations open. This joyous occasion was marked by the release of the Tri-colour balloons which signified the presence of 100 years of Salesian sisters’ presence in India.



The white and blue balloons symbolised our Lady, who is a source of blessing to all of us. The doves were released as a symbol of joy, peace and harmony. The dignitaries were welcomed at the auditorium with sandal paste and garlands. The meeting began with the welcome song by the students of St. Francis Xavier’s, Broadway. Sr. Gaspar Maria Celine welcomed Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, Sr. Borja Runita, and Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar. She also acknowledged Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, Provincial for her meticulous planning and guidance. She also extended a warm welcome to the animators and sisters, the Educating Community members, Staff, Parents and the youth. The dignitaries were felicitated by Mother Provincial, teachers, students and the representatives of the Educating community.



The welcome dance performed by the students of Our Lady's School was enhanced by the blowing of a conch shell to ring in the positive psychological vibrations such as courage, determination, hope, optimism, will power and bliss followed by the presentation of the theme 'Laudato si' - 'Care for our common home'- (The Earth). 'Laudato si' reminds us that every speck of life is valued by God and not a single creature is forgotten in God's sight. It is also a step forward for environmentalism. It challenges us morally and spiritually to care for God's creation. The students of Fatima School enthralled the audience with their performance. The brief introduction and explanation by the narrators was simple and clear and the choreography and mime introduced the 'The Cry of the Poor' and explained the objectives of Ecological Economics, Adoption of sustainable lifestyles, No to Plastic, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality and Community Involvement. We are called to solidarity as one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation.

Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, Provincial presented a memento to Mother General in commemoration of the 100 years of Salesian Sisters presence in India. Sr. Runita Borja, General Councillor for youth ministry gave the message. She made the children to take the message home by repeating "I belong to you, you belong to me, we belong to God and together we make the World."

She made them understand that there is a relationship web with each other and the world at large. Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola blessed the gathering with her special message. The vote of thanks was proposed by a student of Our Lady's Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chetpet. In the end the band was played and the students sang beautifully the hymn 'All Hail to you Don Bosco'.

Mother General Chiara Cazzuola along with Sr.Runita Borja and Sr.Ruth Maria del Pilar were happy to meet the Salesian family members of Chennai zone along with the Self Help-group Women, VIDES, Educating community members with Vocational Training students. They were welcomed with traditional Indian dances, with shawl and gift. Sr.Kanickaraj Mary Sharmila the Social ministry coordinator presented the Video on the success stories of women and children to the entire group. The activities of ARUWYE was displayed through video clippings. ARUWYE is working among the underprivileged women, youth and children in five districts of Tamil Nadu. The change created has to be structural at the same time it should resonate from personal opinions, belief systems and choices made by the concerned people in their lives. ARUWYE is committed to enhance the potential so marginalized children, women and youth by raising awareness on their rights and promoting livelihood by pro-actively engaging with state institutions that impact them significantly and networking with like-minded organizations involved in lobbying and advocacy. The activities showcased its growth. The Children's Development Activities are: Supplementary Evening



Study Centre, Awareness on Human Rights and Child Protection Policy, Training on Safety Procedures and protection measures, Human Trafficking, Sponsorship, Neighbourhood children's Parliament.



The Women Development Activities mainly that of Self Help groups, Income Generation Activities, Gender based Violence, Organic Farming and Roof Gardening, Suicide Prevention, Entrepreneurship Training and Micro Credit Saving, Celebrations of National and Regional Festivals and Women's Day

Celebration, Government Schemes and Benefits were presented. The activities of Youth Development namely Life skill and Career Guidance, Youth Citizenship, Job placement, Youth empowerment, COVID Emergency support and Joy of giving were also presented. A plan of action has been undertaken with our children, young at Risk in the path of Love, Reconciliation and Conversation towards fullness of life and to make them God-centered and value-based responsible citizens. Formative Activities of Youth At Risk centers such as Leadership training to the sisters & staff, Children's committee, Mental health support, Life skill Education', Human Rights day, Girl children day, Awareness of child protection policy, Formation of Children's Parliament, Awareness on Right to Education, Capacity building training, Awareness on child trafficking, Human rights Education, Street theatre training and ACTS related to Children. The Vocational Training students performed a mime wherein they depicted the situation of today's youth and the benefits they get through the Vocational training center of our province. Mother General Sr.Chiera Cazzuola and Sr.Ruth thanked all the coordinators for



all the good work done for the upliftment of the poor and the empowerment of women in the society.

At 7.15p.m. there was a gathering of the Family Circle with the Salesians of INM. About 50 Salesian Priests from Chennai houses were present to greet Mother General and the councilors. Fr. K.M. Jose, Provincial felicitated the Mother General, the General Councillors

and Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala, Provincial thanked them for the collaboration and the good rapport established with them. She also thanked Mother General and said the same spiritual relationship between Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello would continue with the Salesian Fathers who administer faithfully the sacraments every day be it sun or rain and imparted the Word of God during recollections and retreats. The day ended with a note of joy.

02.09.2022

Encounter of Mother General with the young Sisters:

La Madre, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola arrived at St. Mary's Convent, Vellore, a cradle of INM from where the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello spread to different parts of Tamil Nadu and gradually to other parts of India. La Madre along with Sr. Celine Jacob, visiting councilor, Sr. Runita Borja, General councilor for Youth Pastoral, Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, the General councilor for the Missions were warmly welcomed by the Sisters of the Community, the girls, the staff and the vibrant young sisters of INM Province.

The long awaited meeting with Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola commenced at 9.30 a.m. The young sisters animated the prayer moment invoking the Spirit of the Lord. Sr. Gabriel Maria, a young



sister gave the welcome address adorning La Madre with a crown and breast plate and sword. Then they honoured our beloved Mother with a shawl, a gift of



peacock image, and a gift of cushions made by one of the young sisters. A beautiful dance was performed by the sisters which was a delight to the eyes. Mother General addressed the young sisters. She said that she was Happy to meet the young sisters. She said that at this time of the Centenary celebrations we are grateful to the Pioneers who toiled to spread the charism.

We rejoice at the glorious past and are thankful to God and at the same time we have the responsibility to build a future for another centenary. As Don Bosco said, Mary Most holy is here at Nizza Monferrato, walking and covering it with her mantle. Mother said that Mary is walking not only in Nizza but is present in each of our lives. She continued to encourage the sisters and said that she prays for the sisters daily and she dreams, thinks and prays that every FMA may be happy and faithful. The one who is in communion with God will be in good relationship with the sisters and the young people. Mother also exhorted the sisters when they feel fatigue, tired, anxious they must examine where they have placed the Lord during the day. She also shared that in the younger age there will be lot of enthusiasm but the way of expressing that enthusiasm differs as the stages of life changes or rather as it grows. She encouraged the sisters in the words of Mother Mazzarello to have a grand and generous heart, a missionary heart which urges us to live the Da Mihi Animas. She said when sisters physically feel tired of work must go and sit at the feet of the Lord, to be just there, tell the Lord to come along.

She exhorted the young sisters to have courage in the face of difficulties never to get discouraged but have courage. The two watch words that she told



them to remember are 'joy and courage'. The sisters interacted with Mother General, placing on record their appreciation of the encouraging words of Mother. One among them asked about the too many activities that at times makes one feel tired and at that moment how to get back to prayer? Mother General said that at the dawn of each day we offer to the Lord all our activities of the day, and during the day we need to ask ourselves where we have placed the Lord, we have to search for him, enter into communion with him and resume again the work. Our Love for the Lord must be renewed every day, it can't be done once for all, once at first profession and again at the final profession. She completed her speech by telling them the fact that Mary is accompanying them and they need not have fear of anything. Sr. Santiago Teresa proposed the vote of thanks.

At 11.15 a.m. we had the grand Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev.I.John Robert, the Diocesan Administrator of Vellore and other priests of the Diocese. The young sisters animated the liturgy. A beautiful introduction was given with the Plantain tree symbolizing the Marian foundation, the pioneers work of sacrifice and the expansion of the charism and the fruit it bore in 100 years and urged the participants to raise their hearts in thanksgiving to the Lord. Rev. I. John Robert, Diocesan Administrator of Vellore



thanked Mother General and the sisters for the fruitful service rendered to the people of Tamil Nadu, the good done through the educational institutions, Training Institutes, Colleges, the non-formal work etc. and he encouraged the girls to continue the work of the sisters by offering themselves to God as FMA. Sr.Nirmala Lazar, Provincial thanked Rev. I. John Robert and the priests of the Diocese of Vellore for their prayers and blessings.

The Charismatic Museum, 'Legacy of the Century' – a memorial hall was blessed by Msgr. Rev. I. John Robert, Diocesan Administrator of Vellore inaugurated



by Rev. Mother Chiara Cazzuola, in the presence of Sr. Nirmala Lazar, Provincial, Sr. Celine Jacob, visiting councilor, Sr. Runita Borja, General councilor for youth Pastoral, Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, the General councilor for the Missions and all the young sisters and the other FMAs. Sr. Josephine Antonyraj and Sr. Juliana Victor, Sr.Irine Towel were honoured by La Madre for their hard work and commitment.

Meeting with the young people:

The meeting with young people began around 3.30 p.m. La Madre and the dignitaries were accompanied to the auditorium with a procession of flags by the students of St. Mary's School, Vellore. The students from schools Tirupattur, Vellore, Arni, Anmarudai, Polur, Dharmapuri waved out colourful flags, ribbons and centenary flags accompanied by the Don Bosco boys Band of Gandhi Nagar. Sr. Regina Rathinaswamy, the animator of St. Mary's Convent, Vellore welcomed and introduced Mother General and the councilors.

They were welcomed with kumbaarathi by the staff of St. Mary's School, Vellore. They were felicitated by the Educating Community Members from St. Mary's-Vellore, Auxilium-Polur and Students from St.



Joseph's Convent-Arni, Mary Immaculate-Tirupattur. The Staff, Parents and members of the educating community were present for the meeting. A welcome song by St. Joseph Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Arni, a prayer dance and fusion dance by the students of St. Mary's



School, Vellore was performed on the occasion. Mother gave a message to the young people. Her message was translated in Tamil by Sr. Josephine Rani Susai. Mother appreciated the children for their enthusiastic performance and shared the message that the Centenary invites us to look at the past with gratitude and also look at the future and build it with hope, build it daily with responsibility. She also said that mother Mary is walking with each of us. There is a universal language understood by all that is love. Everyone was glad and made a gesture of heart symbolizing love. Sr. Jasmine Julia was the master of ceremony. After the vote of thanks by a student from Auxilium School, Dharmapuri Mother offered a memento to the staff and parents present. The children were served tea and snacks.

VIGIL SERVICE AUXILIUM COLLEGE, KATPADI

Around 6.30 p.m. Mother General and the General Councilors were welcomed affectionately at Auxilium College, Katpadi. The array of college girls dressed in traditional attire 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 7.15p.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 Chrism to our beloved motherland India. After supper, the Sisters gathered eagerly in front of the convent portico for the goodnight thought of Mother Chiara.

03.09.2022

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 and the members of the Salesian Family along with Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the General Councilors, the Provincials of the seven FMA Provinces 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 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 Councilors. 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 was presented in the form of a tableau (INC), Salesian Co-operators through a PowerPoint presentation (INK), VIDES with a video (INM), Educating Community in the form of a 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.



THANKS GIVING CENTENARY EUCARIST

At 11.00 a.m. the solemn Thanksgiving Centenary Eucharist began with an insightful introduction (INK) on the significance of the day. A rhythmical entrance dance (INM) was followed by flag bearers, Mother General, General Councilors, FMA Provincials, representative Members of the Salesian Family carrying their respective flags, and 100 students carried the lamps signifying the centenary (INC).



A ceremonious welcome with *kumbaarathi* and the triple *arathi* during *doxology* were accorded by the staff of INT. The Eucharist was presided over by our beloved Rector Major Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Arttime and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Biju Michael, Councilor for South Asian Region, Salesian Provincials of Chennai, Trichy and Hyderabad, Mgr I. John Robert, Apostolic Administrator of Vellore



Diocese, and about 50 Diocesan and Salesian priests. 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 marvelous growth of the Salesian Charism in India. He recommended the Salesian Sisters, fidelity to the Charism especially in serving the poor young people and women, saying that there will be a bicentenary, an outcome of our fidelity. He encouraged the young people to be happy always. During the prayers of the faithful INB province presented the needs of the Church, Salesian Family and Society. The auditorium was packed to capacity with more than 1000 persons. The Thanksgiving Eucharist was indeed a memorable occasion 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 College, Katpadi and 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 Arttime SDB., Rector Major of the Salesians, Rev. Fr. Biju Michael SDB, the Salesian Regional Councillor for South Asia, Rev. Sr. Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Rev. Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councilor for the Missions, Rev. Sr. Celine Jacob, Visiting General Councillor, Rev. Mgr. I. 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. Sr. Maria Nirmala Lazar, the President of the FMA Provincial Conference of India, welcomed the gathering and felicitated the former provincials of the seven FMA Provinces, while the provincial councilors of INM Province felicitated the present provincials of FMA INDIA.



The FMA Provincials honoured Mother General, Rector Major, General Councilors, Salesian Regional Councilor, 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 in the presence of the guests of honour.



To reinforce the Salesian purpose of educating the young girl, financial aid by way of Centenary Scholarships were given to 100 needy students in each Province. As a token ten students of INM were presented with scholarships by Sr. Runita 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 to Sisters 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. The Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime 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. I. 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 were part of the celebrations, all those who participated and witnessed, all the FMA of India as a brilliant commemoration of the 100 Years long Presence of Salesian Sisters in India.

"I choose to make the rest of my
life the best of my life."

~ Louise Hay

04.09.2022

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 Councilors. After an ardent Morning Prayer, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 7.00 a.m. by Rev. Fr. K.M. Jose SDB, INM Provincial. The theme of the 23rd Sunday on Discipleship was highlighted in the introduction to the Holy Mass and prayers of the faithful.

At 9.15 a.m. Mother General in the meeting with the Provincials of the seven Provinces in India shared her wisdom, inspiration and invited 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 a Centenary gift. Thank you dear Mother for the great love you have for your daughters!

Simultaneously, the General Councilors 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 Councilors had a meeting with the animators of Chennai Province at Noon. *La Madre* expressed her appreciation for the efficient animation of the communities 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 General met the Provincial Council and spoke to them of their commitment as councilors according to the mind of Fr. Philip Rinaldi.



At 5.30 p.m. the two general councilors 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.

At 6.30 p.m. Mother and the General councilors were welcomed at Sacred Heart Home, the Formation House in Auxilium Campus. After a grand welcome given by the candidates and the community, Mother met the candidates. Vespers was prayed together by all the three communities in the campus followed by a 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.

05.09.2022

The following day, 5 September, at 6.00 a.m. the INM Province bid farewell to Mother General and the two General Councilors 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.



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS EDUCATION

One day seminar for the staff on “Constitutional Rights Education” was held on 8th July 2022 in Auxilium Home since we are introducing “Constitutional Rights Education” to the students of Std. VI in all our institutions. This was organised by Sr. Joseph Victoria Mary the Province Human Rights Education Co-ordinator in net work with “Van Mughil” Trust, Tirunelveli. Twenty Seven teachers from thirteen schools of the Province attended this training programme.



The day started with the prayer animated by the teachers of St. Mary’s Girls Higher Secondary School, Vellore. Sr. Joseph Victoria Mary welcomed the Chief Guests of the day Rev. Fr. Kulandaisamy (OFM Cap), Mr. M.A. Britto, Director of Van Mughil and the participants.

Sr. Mariadoss Amala Mary, Animator of Auxilium Home gave the inaugural talk on “Human Rights from the perspective of Jesus” and made everyone to think in a different way.

Rev. Fr. Kulandai Samy (OFM Cap) Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Madras and the close collaborator of Van Mughil presented on “Today’s context and the need for Constitutional Rights

Education” for children creatively and interestingly with up to date details and statistics. He emphasized on the need for building foundations in values based on Human Rights and Constitutional Rights.

After a short break and the photo session Mr. M.A. Britto the Director of Vanmughil presented “The design of CRE programme for children, the modules and the formation of CRE clubs” and different key activities and stake holders in the journey through power point presentation. It was an eye opening and informative session about the importance of CRE in our curriculum. At the end of the session the participants were divided into four groups and prepared the given topic from the book for demonstration.

After the lunch the teachers presented the demo classes. They were very active and creative in bringing out the message of the topic given. Mr. M.A. Britto concluded the session appreciating the teachers for their best performance and explained about “The Pedagogy needed for teachers to handle CRE to children and the specific tasks assigned to them”.

Sr. Joseph Victoria Mary, the Co-ordinator for Human Rights gave brief instructions on taking CRE in our Schools. It was followed a positive feedback from



the teachers on the day's animation. The programme concluded with vote of thanks. Thus the teachers were trained to teach Constitutional Rights Education for the students.

An Online orientation on Constitutional Rights Education (CRE) was conducted with the same team, through zoom meet on July 30th 2022. Sixty seven participants comprised of students and few teachers gathered in the virtual portal for this orientation.



After a short prayer and welcome, the inaugural talk on “The salient features of the Indian Constitutions” set the tone for the day by Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Academic Co-ordinator of the Province.

Mr. M.A. Britto, Director of Van Mughil had an interaction with the students on Rights. The students presented their creative presentation through videos, speech, songs, charts, placards, stories etc. on one of the given following topics:

- My School and me
- My Place and me
- My Friends and me
- My World

The students presented in an excellent way and the credit goes to the teachers who prepared them for innovative presentation. Mr. Ganesan, the State Training Co-ordinator coordinated the session and he spoke to them on “Rights of the Children” and how they are classified into



- Right to life
- Right to growth
- Right to Protection
- Right to Participate

Mrs. Vanitha Mani the Founder of “Kathai Kalam” and “Nool Kalam” narrated a story with great enthusiasm and motivated them through her innovative stories and



made the children to find out the moral values in it. Indeed this session was wonderful and the most liked by everyone.

Mr. Kalaivanan the Founder of “Kalai” Trust and the Master Puppeteer explained about the ways of preparing and using puppets in school curriculum and screened his puppet show and explained about the “Protection of the Children from sexual abuses” with the slogan “No, Go and Tell” through an incident.

Mr. Ganesan introduced “Constitutional Rights Education” to the children and explained about the book, “*We, the People of India*” published by Van Mughil in Tamil for Std. VI. Sr. Joseph Victoria Mary



gave short instructions on taking CRE in our Schools. The orientation came to an end with vote of thanks. The students and teachers found the orientation very useful, informative and created the interest in them to study (CRE) “Constitutional Rights Education”.

Sr. Victoria Joseph



RECTOR MAJOR'S VISIT TO BEATITUDES CENTER



The 5th September was a red letter day for our Beatitudes centre at Vyasarpadi with the visit of Our Rector Major Angel Fernandez Artime SDB. It was a great blessing to all of us. As he arrived with other Salesians, Don Bosco Higher Secondary School welcomed him. He was greeted the boys of the youth Centre and boarding. Women of WHEAT (Women Health Empowerment Animation Training Centre) and Crèche Children.

Our Rector Major spent quality time with our Primary School children and the little ones performed a beautiful dance and a colourful drill. The children of Nirmala Boarding and the Sisters

greeted the Rector Major on his return from the school and they sang a song and offered gifts. And then he spent sometime in the Old Age Home, taken care by the SMA Sisters.

After the refreshment he encountered the Salesian family members from Chennai zone. The Mother General of SMA and the Sisters, Cooperators, Parish Councillors, ADMA groups were present for the meeting. In his address to the entire group, he appreciated the tremendous apostolate that is being accomplished for the cause of the Poorest of the Poor. He appreciated the work of the Centre and Rev Fr. Mantovani and Fr. Schoolz for their pioneering work. He was taken up by the joint venture of the three congregations and various help given by the lay collaborators.

A Sumptuous lunch was provided for all the participants. He blessed every one with deep appreciation. The Rector Major left for Goa. Fr. Joe Andrew, Rector organized the visit in a very effective and fitting manner. We praise and thank God for his blessings. Indeed, blessed is he who came in the name of the Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

Sr. Maria Kalyani Arockiasamy



SACRED HEART CONVENT POLUR

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality”



On 6th July 2022 we had the inauguration of the investiture ceremony for our newly elected leaders in our school premises. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Francis SDB, an Advocate and Parish Priest of Polur Sacred Heart Church was invited as the guest of honour.

The day's programme started with the guard of honour. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Francis along with our Correspondent Rev. Sr. Nirmal Rose and the principal Rev. Sr. Celine Mary were led to the dais accompanied by Auxilium school band. This was followed by



the prayer service. The newly elected SPL, Remola Roy of Std XII Welcomed the chief guests and the gathering. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Francis blessed the badges and scarf Rev. Sr. Nirmal Rose, pinned the

badges to the office bearers. The leaders took an oath and promised the gathering to be faithful to their duties and responsibilities. The chief guest enlightened the students by his effective messages and requested the students to work on the three levels 1. Eradication of poverty 2. Eradication of illiteracy and Eradication of unjust activities of non-violence.

Rev. Sr. Nirmal Rose, correspondent congratulated the students and reminded them that they were called to be the torch bearers of the school to work with a team spirit for the betterment of the school and for the development each other. With gratitude to God the Almighty and for all those who toiled hard for the success of the event, the programme came to an end with the National anthem.

INAUGURATION OF THE COMMITTED GROUPS



“Do What Ever Tells You” We had the committed group inauguration on 26th July at 6.30 pm. The inauguration began with a meaningful prayers service to implore God's blessings upon everyone. Rev. Sr. Nirmal Rose, animator, Rev. Sr. Emily - delegate of missionary

group, Sr.Vimala, incharge of Marian group, Reena of Std V, were invited to light the kuthuvilakku. With much fervour, the committed groups came forward to make the promises. The committed groups are as follows,

- ❖ Peace Group
- ❖ Missionary Group
- ❖ Salesian Group
- ❖ Marian Group

Each group marched towards the altar with the images



of the logo of their groups and announcing their motto they took the pledge. It was a moment of joy and commitment to be enrolled as members of the spiritual groups. The leaders assumed their responsibilities and came forward with their Mottos and Goals along with the group members. At the end Rev.Sr.Nirmal Rose, Animator congratulated the group members and encouraged them to be faithful to follow their motto and promise and to live their lives pleasing to God and to one another. To mark the day a scapular was given as a souvenir. It was an enriching and joyful moment for all the inmates in the campus

BIBLE WEEK CELEBRATION



“You word is a lamp to my feet”. was theme was chosen for the bible day celebrations. The first day was animated by the students of Primary school from LKG to grade V. Rev. Fr. Paul Mark SDB, the Principal of ITI Don Bosco Polur, was the chief guest. The Holy Bible was taken in a procession by the chief guest, accompanied by the little ones, few students dressed as angels paid homage to the Bible with flowers. A short prayer service was conducted very fervently then followed the skit - The Poor widow’s offering was enacted by Std V and IV. The chief guest shared the reflection on the parable of the ten talents and encouraged the students to read daily the Holy Bible.

The second day was animated by the middle school students (grade VI to grade VIII). Our Correspondent Rev. Sr. Nirmal Rose was the chief guest of the day. The celebration started with a prayer service, followed by a dance. The students enacted the parable of the Ten Virgins and performed an action song. The Animator in her speech spoke on the parable of the Sower, and

















shared that what we sow, we reap and she insisted that everyone should sow the seeds of love, peace and joy and continue to proclaim God's love by our way of life.

The third day the Higher Secondary School students animated the Bible week. The programme began with an entrance procession, Rev.Fr.Vinoth SDB, administrator of Don Bosco ITI Polur, carried the Bible in a procession and the students paid homage



with lighted candles and by strewing flowers. The program started with prayer followed by dance. The parable of the Good Samaritan was enacted.

The life journey of Jesus was depicted in a tableau. "Who am I?" The Quiz programme enthralled the students as they were quizzed on the famous personalities from the Bible and prizes were given on the spot.

Rev. Fr. Vinoth inspired the students with life incidents and asked everyone to follow Christ with three basic requirements: know God, experience God, and then preach God's love to all. At the end Sr. Celine Mary, principal thanked and congratulated the teachers and students for the good programme and urged everyone to read the Holy Bible every day. We concluded the day with blessings and joy.

Sr. Mary Celine Arockiasamy

MARY IMMACULATE CONVENT - TIRUPATTUR

BOARDING - INAUGURATION OF GROUPS

Inauguration of Committed groups was held on 17th July. The boarders were in six groups namely Jesus, Marian, Missionary, Salesian, Laura and Peace. They were prepared well by the sisters in-charge of groups. Sr. Dharmalingam Jeyaseeli the Youth Pastoral Co-ordinator animated the prayer service. The evening programme started with the procession of each group with their Patron, symbol and motto. The boarders took the oath as a group and Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Animator pinned the badges and initiated them into different groups. At the end of the service all sang the "Magnificat" praising God with Mary.

Sr. Anthony Raj Christina exhorted the students to be faithful to their motto practicing the virtues of their patrons.

MUTHAMIZH VIZHA

The mega event of the Higher Secondary School "Muthamizh Vizha" was conducted on 21st July by

the teachers of Tamil department. Mr. Padmanaban the P.G. Asst. in Tamil of Rama Krishna Boys Higher Secondary School, Tirupattur presided over the day along with Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Correspondent and Sr. Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia, Headmistress. The dignitaries were welcomed by the girl guides at





the entrance of the school and accompanied by Tamil poets and leaders to the stage. The programme started with official state song (Tamilnadu state anthem) followed by welcome address and honouring the chief guests with Shawl and gifts.

The students performed a debate on “What is needed for the growth of the children? Love or firmness”. They shared their beautiful thoughts with life experiences and the Chief guest concluded the debate saying, ‘much love and little firmness’ is needed for their growth in this modern age.

The tamil playlet on “Kundalagesi” an epic was staged depicting the life of “Pathra who became the monk”.

The nightingales of the School sang a song on Tamil mozhi, which emphasized the beauty of the language.

A cultural dance comprising of various forms of art was performed by the students.

The Chief Guest appreciated the students for their best performance and distributed the prizes and the

certificates to the winners of various competitions conducted in view of Muthamizh Vizha. The programme came to an end with vote of thanks and the National Anthem.

PAST PUPILS’ MEET

Past Pupils’ meeting was held on 15th August in the school hall. The dignitaries of the day were Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Correspondent and Sr. Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia, Headmistress. The session started with the prayer and welcoming the participants for the meeting.

Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Correspondent gave the introductory talk on “Centenary celebrations”. Mrs. Porkodi the staff in-charge of the past pupils presented the seventeen Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) in a nutshell..



Some of the past pupils shared their positive and enriching experiences of how they live the values now among their peers, what they learnt in the school days. It was an inspiring and educative sharing.

The teachers conducted a game for them and the winners were given the prizes. The day came to an end with the vote of thanks, photo session, tea and snacks. All had the joy of returning to the school and cherish the old memories.

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

Mary Immaculate Girls' Higher Secondary School had their Annual Sports Meet on 18th August for this academic year. Mrs. Hemavathy Inspector of Police, Tirupattur, Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Correspondent, Sr. Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia, Headmistress and Sr. Wilson Anitha Arockiam, Principal of Our Lady's Matriculation School, Sisters of the Community and



well wishers were welcomed with guard of honour. After a short prayer and felicitations. the Chief Guest hoisted the Olympic flag. The march past of four different teams were a remarkable event of the day. The captains and the assistant captains led their group magnificently. The Chief Guest declared the sports meet open for this academic year. Fan drill, Kolattam, Aerobics and track events were the different proceedings of the day. Games were conducted for

the teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and the workers. The winners were awarded with certificates, medals, and prizes. Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, appreciated the students for their best performance and addressed them on the importance of having games in our schools, team spirit and the attitude of accepting success and failure equally. At the end the overall championship to the Blue house, best March Past to Yellow house, creativity and innovation to Green house and for discipline to Red house were given. After the vote of thanks, the Olympic flag was lowered and brought in procession by the captains and it was handed over to the Correspondent and in turn to the headmistress to celebrate the Sports meet for the next academic year.

DISTRICT LEVEL AWARD

Ms. C. Archana of Std. IX won the first prize in Elocution competition conducted in view of the birthday of the former Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanithi at the Tirupattur District level. She received the certificate and cash award of Rs. 5000/- from the honourable collector Mr. Amar Kushwaha IAS, in Tirupattur on October 7th, 2022.



OUR LADY'S MATRICULATION - ANNUAL SPORTS MEET



A magnificent Sports day was held on 27th August in Our Lady's Matriculation School. Rev. Fr. Clement Ignatius SDB the Rector and the Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Church, Tirupattur was the Chief Guest of the day. The programme started with guard of honour accompanying the dignitaries to the campus with the School band. Sr. Anthony Raj, Correspondent, Sr. Wilson Anitha Arockiam, Principal, Community Sisters, Salesians from Dominic Savio Boys Home and Don Bosco and well wishers were on the dais. At the outset of the programme the children invoked the blessings of the Lord through a short prayer. Sr. Anthony Raj Christina, Correspondent welcomed Rev. Fr. Clement Ignatius SDB the Chief Guest with the shawl and the gift. Other guest of honour were welcomed with flowers and gifts.

After the flag hoisting the children marched magnificently carrying their placards and symbols. Colourful mass drills were performed by the Students. That was the spectacular moment to see the children in various costumes. After the track events and class relays, the winners were awarded with medals and certificates. Games too were conducted for the teaching, non-teaching staff, parents and workers separately and they were given prizes. Overall championship was awarded to Phoenix house. Rev. Fr. Clement Ignatius SDB appreciated the children for their best performance and addressed the students to make use of all the opportunities given in order to grow integrally.

Sr. Victoria Joseph

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR THE BORDERS

“Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your Heart” – Ps: 37.

On 22nd October, Sr. Rayappan Selvi and Sr. Maria Prakash Kanimozhi accompanied 57 boarders to Carmel Ashram, Sohathur for 2 days of Annual Retreat. They were animated by Fr. Stephen Thatchil CMI, Fr. Jain and their team on the theme “love of God” and the “Lives of the Saints”. They spent time in listening to the word of God, adoration, praise



and worship. Since it was the charismatic retreat the student participated very actively, enthusiastically and vibrantly. They were prepared well for the sacrament of reconciliation and most of them made good confessions and experienced the mercy of God.

The needy students availed the Counselling. During the healing session many of our students received healing and the gifts of the Holy spirit. The retreat centre had a good ambient for prayer and silence. Good food and accommodation was given to them, overall the students profited by this retreat. End of the retreat Sr. Christina Anthony Raj, animator of Mary immaculate convent appreciated and gave them the blessed rosary. She asked them to retain the retreat fervor in their daily life.

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR THE DAY SCHOLARS

The community arranged the separate annual Retreat for all the Catholic and Christian days scholars of Mary immaculate Girls Secondary School and Our lady's Matriculation School. 78 students from both the schools made their annual Retreat in the campus. Fr. Williams Paul Raj SDB from Don Bosco Tirupattur was the Preacher for the retreat. The day began with the invocation of the blessings of the Lord and the welcoming the Preacher of the day.

The theme of the Retreat was "Jesus the Hero" He took the first session on the real meaning of retreat



and the ways to experience God's love. He prepared the students for the sacrament of reconciliation during animated the adoration. Three priests from Sacred Heart College availed themselves to administer the sacrament of confessions. At the end of the Adoration he carried the Blessed Sacrament and blessed the children. Thanking God they went home happily; determine to live a spirit filled life.

Sr. Selvi Rayappan

**"Courage is the most
important of all the virtues
because without courage,
you can't practice any other
virtue consistently."**

~ Maya Angelou



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

“Leaders are not born but are made by their experience in life”.

The Investiture Ceremony is a solemn occasion where all the young students are prepared to take up leadership and the responsibilities entrusted to



them by the school. The budding young leaders were appreciated and assured of the trust vested in them.

On Friday 15th July 2022 the twin celebrations of the Investiture Ceremony and the birthday of late Chief Minister K. Kamaraj who was a role model for younger generations were organized in Mary Immaculate Elementary School, Tirupattur. Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Sebastian, correspondent of the school was the chief guest and Sr. Amali Devaraj was the Guest of Honor.

The programme began with the lighting of the lamp followed by a welcome speech. The ceremony



commenced with the leaders marching to the stage with their flags held high in harmony with the beat of the drums and light music that replicated the aura of the ceremony. The captains administered the oath with a promise that they would carry out their duties with faithfulness and responsibility. The newly elected leaders received their badges from the Correspondent Sr. Elizabeth Sebastian and the scarf from the Headmistress Sr. Lourdumary Kulandaisamy.

The Correspondent congratulated the newly appointed Captains and encouraged the elected leaders to be dutiful and responsible. The special guests and all the teachers congratulated the student leaders and motivated them to use the opportunities to excel in their curricular and extracurricular activities.

Following this, the day being the 120th birthday of “Karmaveerar” Kamarajar, it was celebrated as the ‘Education Development Day’. The students gave a speech about Kamarajar’s leadership qualities and invited the student leaders to take him as role model to realize the importance of education. After that, the students and teachers participated in the rally on the occasion of Hon. Kamarajar’s birthday organized by the Education Development Department and the ceremony ended with lot of hopes and aspirations for our future leaders.

INAUGURATION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On August 15th 2022 we celebrated the twin feasts of 75th Independence Day and the Assumption of our Blessed Mother which has the unique message of freedom and liberation. We had also another reason to rejoice as we had the blessing and Inauguration of the modified Mary Immaculate boarding building

into Mary Immaculate Elementary school. Yes! it has a special significance for during the Diamond Jubilee of the arrival of our pioneers in 1972 the Mary Immaculate Boarding was inaugurated and blessed and now at the centenary year it is modified into Mary Immaculate Elementary school. It's a day of rejoicing, a day of celebration, and a day of thanksgiving. The celebration began at 9.30 a.m. with great joy and pomp. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp, invoking the blessings of the Almighty. Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA, Provincial unfurled the National Flag followed by singing of the National Anthem. The students presented various cultural programmes such as dance, singing and speech by the school students.

The second part of the celebration was the inauguration and blessing of the modified school building. Rev. Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA, Inaugurated the building and Rev. Fr. Clement Rosario SDB, the parish priest of Mary Help of Christians parish, Tirupattur blessed the building during the prayer service.

Provincial Rev. Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA, in her key note address recalled that while inaugurating the building she noticed in the plaque that the year of the inauguration of the building of the boarding was 1972 the diamond Jubilee of the arrival of the pioneers and this year 2022 as we celebrate the centenary year the same building has been modified into Mary Immaculate Elementary School. We have to marvel at the plan of God and the way He leads us. She appreciated the hard labour of the construction workers, the sisters and the teachers for their commitment and dedicated service in the field of Education.

The Engineer, the Contractor and Supervisor of the building were felicitated. A good number of parents were present on this occasion and we thanked them for their contribution, for their cooperation and collaboration in the education of the children. At the end sweets were distributed to the children and it was a happy day to all.

BIBLE WEEK CELEBRATION



From 18.7.22 to 22.07.22 the Biblical week was celebrated in Mary Immaculate Elementary school, Tirupattur on the theme "Do whatever He tells you". Each class highlighted this theme in creative ways. Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Sebastian was the chief guest for the final day of celebration.

We began with the Prayer service at 9.30 a.m. The Word of God was brought in procession and homage was paid. After that, the scripture was read.

The message of the Word of God to different persons in the marriage feast at Cana was given as follows:

1. To the married couple "Be happy always".
2. To the master of the family "Don't worry I am with you".
3. To the stone jars "I will fill you with my blessings".
4. To the relatives "I have carved you in the palm of my hand, you are mine".
5. To the servants, it was said, "In your weakness I will give my strength."

In saying "Do whatever He tells you" Mother Mary gives us the following message:

1. Call him
2. Ask him
3. Do what he says.

These messages were depicted from the Bible.

1. Call him - In the Old Testament Moses called out to the Lord in times of trouble. God also guided them. In the New Testament, the blind man cried out to Jesus, "Have mercy on me." Jesus took pity on him.

The Lord says call on me in times of trouble and I will help you.

2. Ask him - In the Old Testament Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom and he received wisdom.

In the New Testament the centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant and he was healed. Jesus says ask and it will be given to you. We should ask God to fulfill our needs.

3. Do what he says - In the Old Testament, Abraham dared to sacrifice his only son when he was asked to sacrifice him and he became the father of faith because he did what God said.

In the New Testament, Peter spread the net with faith when Jesus told him to cast the net in the middle of the sea. The faithful servant became the leader of the Church.

The Lord tells us today:

1. Love others.
2. Help the needy.
3. Pray without ceasing.
4. Obey your parents.
5. Forgive others.

Let us listen to Jesus and fulfill what he tells us in our day today life.

Each class presented the theme in different ways by singing, dancing and memorizing the 73 books of the bible. Sr. Elizabeth Sebastian appreciated the children and the teachers for their beautiful presentation and encouraged them to live the message that they presented. Thus, the Bible week was concluded.

Sr. Pragasi Anthonysamy

ST. MARY'S, VELLORE

TEACHERS DAY MASS

On 10th September. Rev. Fr. Stanley Alex, Director Fountain Institute of Counseling and Psychotherapy and Research gave a one hour talk. Three school teachers and sisters gathered in the Marian Hall.

The program started with a short Prayer followed by the welcome address. Father gave a valuable speech. He explained the categories of teachers comparing with the Human Brain and its formation.

- Reptilian Brain – Highly Selfish people
- Mammal Brain – Taking care of others
- Neo Mammalian Brain – Social care

- Human Brain – Live with Gratitude, appreciation and prayer
- Divine Brain – Super Human – who inspire others

He spoke about our life as divided into zones we live in Public Zone, Social, Personal and Intimate Zone. His innovative speech made the Teachers to identify themselves. At 10:00 A.M, a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Stanley Alex. It was a memorable moment. A Group photo was taken. The gathering came to an end with the vote of thanks.



PAVING THE WAY FOR LEARNERS TO BE LEADERS



On 2nd of August, 2022, the Memorandum of Understanding between Auxilium College and Royal Commonwealth Society, Malaysia was renewed for the next five years, in the presence of Asia Regional Youth Coordinator Mr. Dhanesh Basil. This will allow for further facilitation of fruitful collaborations in the form of student and faculty exchange, jointly organized events and research initiatives in the near future. The VIP (Volunteer-Innovate-Participate), and G17 University Ambassadors Consortium global fellowship programmes, along with a Certificate Course on UN's Sustainable Development Goals were officially launched on the same day.

PRIDE, JOY AND PATRIOTIC FERVOUR AS THE TRICOLOUR FLIES HIGH

The celebration of the 75th year of Independence took place with great patriotic fervor on August 15, 2022 at Auxilium College. The Tricolour was hoisted and unfurled at the college grounds by the chief guest Major (Dr.) T. Sathish, Army Medical Corps, in the presence of our Secretary Sr. Alice K.T., Principal Dr.(Sr) Jaya Shanthi R., Sr.Amali Alexander, Principal of Auxilium College of Education and Vice Principals Sr. Sumathi M. and Dr.(Sr) Amala Valarmathy A.

The ceremony was made memorable by the joint efforts of the Department of History and the National Cadet Corps led by the coordinators Capt. Anitha Alice E. and Sr. Sumathi M. The students commemorated our nation's greatness and the significant historical events that led to independence through a scintillating mime, a majestic march by the NCC, a memorable speech, patriotic songs, and dances. The event came to a close with our students from the Department of Commerce paying homage to the freedom fighters who made India's independence possible, by portraying them. May we, the citizens, stand united and do our best to build our country so that it may soar with wings of liberty, diversity and dignity.

A PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE: LAUNCH OF SINGLE PARENT CELL



To mark St. John Bosco's birthday, the Centenary Celebration of the Salesian Sisters' arrival to India, and to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Department of Business Administration, the Single Parent Family Cell was launched officially on August 16, 2022, Dr. Beulah Suresh, Head of PG and Research Department of Business Administration envisioned the importance of and need for the existence of the cell so that it could assist students physically, emotionally, psychologically and financially to combat the

challenges of growing in a single parent home. To promote the launch, the Chief Guest Mr. Kulandai Francis, Founder of IVDP, Krishnagiri, unveiled the official logo and motto “Support to Liberate” virtually. Ms. N. Uma Maheswari, District Child Protection Officer, Vellore, and Dr. Priscilla, Senior DR-TB Medical officer, GVMCH, Adakambaarai, Vellore shared their views on single parenting and how the cell can be instrumental in bringing positive change in the lives of others.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Keeping up with the revolution of online education, our college always encourages students to embrace e-learning and reap the benefits of the endless opportunities to learn new things via the internet. on August 27, 2022 the College was presented with the Spoken Tutorial National Academic Excellence Award for outstanding contribution in organizing training and spreading awareness on FLOSS/MOOCs (Free/Libre



and Open Source Software / Massive Open Online Course) among Arts/Science/Commerce Students. The award was received by Dr.(Sr) Jaya Shanthi R. Principal and Dr.Sujatha, Head of the PG and Research Department of Mathematics (Shift II) and the coordinator of the courses at the National Level Conclave on Spoken Tutorial Teaching-Learning Best Practices and Award Ceremony 2022, VMCC, IIT Bombay.

INDIAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



The Indian Youth Parliament was held at Jaipur on September 15, 16 and 17 2022. About 28 states took part in this meeting. Ms. Priyadarshni V.R, Assistant Professor of English, Youth Red Cross (YRC) District Organizer was selected to represent on behalf of Tamil Nadu with 12 students representatives from other districts of Tamil Nadu. Ms. Teesha Sharma of III B.Com (Banking& Insurance) was the student representative from Auxilium College, Vellore.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION: AN INITIATIVE

Among many initiatives to improve green cover,



making and distributing seed balls is a quicker and cost-effective method to reclaim the lost green cover of our environment. On 17th September at 10 a.m., the Department of Communication Media in association with the Department of Computer Applications organized a ‘Seed Ball Distribution Drive’ on

Palamathi Hills near Otteri, Vellore. The chief guest was Ms. Sujatha Anandakumar, Mayor of Vellore City Municipal Corporation. The drive aimed at distribution and dispersal of a whopping 20,000 seed balls, and the seed balls was sponsored by Mr. Dinesh Saravanan, Social Activist in Vellore.

This endeavour is a drop in the Ocean to make Vellore Green and India Green and Clean.

WORLD HEART DAY



Auxilium College Observed the World Heart Day with a Pioneering Marathon organized by the World Heart Federation. The World Heart Day is to impart awareness to people around the globe that Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, is the world's leading cause of death claiming 18.6 million lives each year, and highlights the actions that individuals can take to prevent and control CVD. The Department of BBA (Hospital Administration), a joint venture Degree Programme with Christian Medical College and Hospital, in observance of World Heart Day on September 29, 2022 organized a marathon

in partnership with Rotary Club of Vellore Fort, Indian Medical Association (IMA), and MMM Ortho Hospital, Vellore. The marathon was inaugurated by Thiru. G. V. Selvam, Vice President, VIT University, Vellore. Dr. Sr. Jaya Santhi R, Principal, congratulated and conveyed her warm wishes to the students and the Department for the initiative. Around 350 Auxilium College students participated in the marathon. The marathon kick started from Katpadi railway station at 06.30 AM with the finish line at Auxilium College.

The valedictory ceremony was held at the college auditorium. The Chief Guests: Dr. Thiagarajan, President, Indian Medical Association, Vellore and Dr. Dhanesh Kumar, Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Vellore addressed the gathering. The Guests of Honour were Thiru K. Vijayakumar, President and Thiru N. Venkatesan, Secretary, Rotary Club of Vellore Fort, Vellore. A talk on awareness to prevent heart diseases and how to keep our heart healthy was delivered. Various competitions such as Poster presentation, logo designing and essay writing competitions were organized on the theme "A good start for a better heart" to commemorate World Heart Day.

TEXTILE SCREEN PRINTING

The future belongs to those who are always open to learning more skills and combining them in creative ways. Auxilium College places great emphasis on hands-on learning, and workshops are regularly organised to nurture entrepreneurial skills like leadership, business management, time management, and creative thinking in our students.

Screen printing is a popular printing method that uses a process that presses ink through a mesh screen in order to create a printed design. It's used in a huge range of industries across the globe to prepare customized clothing, canvasses, artwork, posters, and more.



The Department of History organized a Textile Screen Printing Workshop in collaboration with Raja Screen Printers, from Theni, on September 29, 2022 at the Hall in Mamma Margaret Hostel Block from 10 AM to 2 PM. Sr. Sumathi M, Vice Principal and Head of the Department of History introduced the resource person, Mr. Rajavelu who explained the application and uses of textile screen printing method and taught the techniques. Students also got a hands-on training experience in the printing process. Around 71 students from the department of History benefitted from this workshop.

IFEST- 2022

Technology like art is a soaring exercise of the human imagination. Department of Computer Science and Applications organised the IFEST 22, a State Level Inter-Collegiate Symposium on September 30, 2022. IFEST 22 provided a great platform for students to present and develop innovative ideas in the field of technology. This IT symposium was organised with an aim to instill desire for technical expertise, digital transformation, technological soundness and innovation in students through exciting and challenging activities like paper presentation, signboard and model making, code writing and product marketing. The overall championship was won by Sacred Heart College, Tiruppattur.



INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY



In commemoration of International Girl Child Day, Auxilium College's Rotaract Club in collaboration with Rotary club of Vellore Fort, Sri Narayani Hospital and Research Centre & JP Dental clinic, organized a Mega Medical Camp on October 11, 2022.

The chief guest was Mr. S. Rajesh Kannan, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Vellore. The resource persons were Mrs. Suba Vijayaraj, Founder, Soft skills trainer, Rumination Life Academy, and Rtn. G. Nandha Kumar, Anaemia Chairman. Organized with the aim of promoting health awareness among the students and offering them easy access to quality healthcare, the camp offered specialist consultations, dental check-up, and health tests among other things, all free of charge.

YUVA UTSAV 2022



To help students explore their interests, nurture their talents, and grow their strengths further than time allows in a traditional classroom setting, our college has always encouraged its students to participate in external competitions and events. Our undergraduate students from the Department of English participated in the Yuva Utsav 2022, a district-level youth festival organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India, that was held in Muthuramangalam Govt. Arts College on October 10 and 11, 2022. More than 20 of our students displayed their talents by participating in various programmes like youth convention, cultural fest, poetry, art, photography, and declamatory contests. They received awards, certificates and cash prizes from Mr. P. Kumaravel Pandian, District Collector, and Mr. Durai Murugan Kathir Anand, Member of Parliament.

MUTHAMIZH VIZHA

The Grand Finale of this year's Muthamizh Vizha celebration which took place on October 15, 2022 was a true feast for the senses. The acclaimed singer and lyricist Mr. Arivarasu Kalaignesan popularly known as Arivu graced the momentous occasion as the chief guest. Tamil history and literature was paid homage to with powerful dramatic renditions of the



epic Silappathikaram and the legend of Nangeli. Following some awe-inspiring dance performances by our students, Mr. Arivu took to the stage to croon his hit numbers, and also a brand new song that he had penned. He spoke at length about the impact of Tamil socio-cultural history on art, and the importance of artistic expression, among other things. The day culminated with the honouring of the title holders of the various competitions that were held over the seven day span of the festival. The Department of History (Shift I) and BBA (Shift II) emerged triumphant as the winners of the overall championship.

CANONICAL VISIT

Visitations are the manifestation of the mutual care, love and compassion that we show to each other. The faculty, staff and students of Auxilium college were honored to have been graced with the presence of the visiting councilor, Rev. Sr. Celine Jacob, as part of the Canonical Visit to all the organizations administered by the Salesian Sisters. The visit to our college lasted for a total of five days, from October 18 to 22, 2022. Our students had the opportunity to portray the enthralling student life that is offered here at Auxilium. An intimate programme was conducted on the morning of the 20th where the students displayed the exciting opportunities and the excellent education that is offered to them in the form of a parade, speeches, songs and dances. This was followed by a pageant-like display of all the departments and clubs that function

in the college. Several students took turns to throw light on the holistic and nurturing environment that is offered in Auxilium. To mark the event, Centenary scholarships were presented to the students in need. The programme culminated with Rev. Sr. Celine's uplifting message to the students. Rev. Sr. Celine also met our teaching and non-teaching staff members

and had an interactive session with them where she shared words of motivation and inspiration. Her visit was truly a reassurance of the support and guidance of the Salesian Preventive System of Education to the teaching and student community of Auxilium College.



AUXILIUM HOME, KATPADI

FEAST OF BLESSED CARMEN MORENO

Auxilium home, Katpadi, named after Bl. Carmen Moreno, established in the year 2001, providentially the year Sr. Carmen Moreno was beatified. Bl. Carmen Moreno is the patron of the community and mission dedicated to the cause of the upliftment of the poorest of the poor young girls. Feast of our patron was celebrated on 10th September 2022, with the theme "A Sacrificing Love".

Feast of our patron was celebrated on 10th September 2022, with the theme "A Sacrificing Love". A special Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Anthonysamy, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Gandhinagar and the Superior and Correspondent of the three schools Rev. Sr. Amala Mary and headmistresses, teachers and students joyfully celebrated the feast of their patron. The life of Bl. Carmen Moreno and her virtues such as kindness, piety, wisdom, humility, simplicity, sacrifice and living



for others was beautifully explained and enacted by the students of the high school.

The service was prepared as a special invocation to Bl. Carmen Moreno and also to seek her powerful intercessions for the various needs. The sharing of the day with the entire Salesian family was indeed a fitting tribute to the valiant martyr of our congregation. Rev. Fr. Anthonysamy in his sermon focussed on the virtues of Bl. Carmen Moreno whose life was centered around courage, conviction, commitment and sacrificial love



like that of our Bl. Virgin Mary. He wished the teachers especially to be committed and to lead a sacrificial life to enlighten the lives of the students entrusted to them. He exhorted the teachers especially to be committed and to lead a sacrificial life to enlighten the lives of the students entrusted to them.

The celebration of the feast with all pomp and reverence was an inspiration and encouragement

to live the Salesian charism passionately and to pass on the goodness of our patron to the younger generation. We are sure that Bl. Carmen Moreno's courage and conviction to live a life totally dedicated to Christ inspired the participants to seek her powerful intercession.

Thanks to St. John Bosco the father and founder of the Salesian congregation and St. Mary Mazzarello, co-foundress who led the Salesian way of working selflessly for the good of the young people. Finally, the animator of Auxilium home, Rev. Sr. Mariadass Amala Mary thanked the celebrant who solemnized the mass and everyone who witnessed the feast of the patron of Auxilium home. The participants were served Lunch after the Holy Mass.

Sr. Brigit Nirmala A.

AUXILIUM - NOCHCHIYAGAMA

Inauguration of Groups

The Auxilium Convent, Nochchiyagama were happy welcome the sunset on 26th July 2022, as we had the inauguration of groups for our hostel girls. The three groups are Don Bosco, Mother Mazzarello and Laura vicuna. The Chapel was well decorated with three photos of our Saints. The inauguration of the groups took place in our chapel. After a hymn, a short introduction was given. The group was called and the members came forward with their symbol in hand, read the word of God, said the pledge and sang their song. Then badges were pinned by a sister.

The Don Bosco group members explained the symbol of the tree. The Mother Mazzarello group girls carried the word of God and the symbol of a heart, and explained how they have to keep the word of God in their hearts. The Laura group came in a procession saying the words of Laura "suffer silently, I offer my life for my mother, smile always" then they read from the Gospel of St. John and acted an incident from Laura's boarding life, they sang a song about Laura which they composed. With the help of the sisters incharge of the groups the group was prepared well. We then had dinner together.

Sr. Nilojana Christopher

Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians

24th July 2022, commenced with the blessings of Mary Help of Christians as it is a special day for all the daughters of Mary Help of Christians, since our Congregation bears the title 'Daughters of Mary Help of Christians'. As true daughters of our Blessed Mother, we have every reason to rejoice and honor her. On this significant day we prayed the thousand Mary Help of



Christians and the Holy Rosary was well animated by Sr. Fernando Metilda and the Mother Mazzarello group. They beautifully decorated the statue of Our Lady in the center of the house. Each mystery was prayed in an attitude of gratitude - for all the graces we received through her invention, secondly "asking God's pardon- for all our sins and indifferences, thirdly



"seeking her help- for all the needs of the world", in the fourth mystery the 'Hail Mary's' were sung and the fifth mystery a Marian hymn encountering Our Blessed Mother was chanted.

At the close of the Rosary, Sr. Fernando Metilda burnt the petitions placed in an urn before our Heavenly Mother, to intercede with her Son for all the graces we asked for. Though we have very few Catholic students, it is admirable to see everyone devoted to Mother Mary praying with such fervour and honoring Our Blessed Mother with great love, as Don Bosco wanted us. We were inspired to continue our devotion to Mother Mary, our teacher and guide on life's journey.

Sr. Anthonipillai P. Arul Malar

150 YEARS BIRTH CENTENARY OF OUR INSTITUTE

The day dawned on a joyful note. With amazing excitement and gratitude to God and Mary Help of Christians, we began our grand celebration at Auxilium Convent, Urumpirai. All the Sisters and boarders woke up early to celebrate this grand occasion of the 150 birth anniversary of our Institute, together with all our parishioners. A solemn Eucharistic celebration was organized in the parish to memorialize this auspicious event of the 150th years of the inauguration of our Institute. Sr. Fernando Metilda and Sr. Pazhayattil Annie along with our Parish Priest Fr. Arudchelvan were garlanded by the parishioners at the entrance of the Church as they walked in procession to the altar and lighted the Kuthuvilakku. There was a beautiful introduction recounting the history of our Institute. The liturgy was well animated by the Sisters and boarders. The celebrant during his homily appreciated

“Awake, Arise our Mother is Here”



our mission all over the world and particularly in Sri Lanka. Soon after Mass, souvenirs of Mary Help of Christians were distributed to all. We prayed for many more vocations for our mission here in Sri Lanka. It was really a memorable day for all of us. The high-light of the day was the entire celebration was telecasted by DAN T.V for the benefit of all the people of Jaffna. It was an opportune occasion to make our Congregation known not only to our parishioners but the entire district of Jaffna. Let us continue to spread the charism of our saintly founders St. John Bosco and St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello walking in the footsteps of our pioneers who brought the spirit of Mornese to us. Let us be relentless and committed in living the Salesian spirituality faithfully and become a true living monument of Don Bosco's gratitude to Mary Help of Christians.



Yes indeed! the long awaited day of the visit of our dear Sr. Celine Jacob, the Visiting Councilor finally arrived. There was great joy and excitement on meeting her. The Community Sisters welcomed her with Ponnadai, garland and sandal paste and the children with the welcome song.

In the evening, the boarders presented a short programme a welcome speech, song, dance and poem in which they creatively brought out the mission carried by the Sisters in our community and most beautifully presented the wedding feast of Cana and concluded with a thank you dance. It was a delight to watch their programme. Finally, Sr. Celine distributed gifts and sweets and gave them a message encouraging them to be good and focus on their studies. The following day the girls of the Vocational Training Center presented a short programme and in the evening the workers and the Educating Community wished our dear Sr. Celine. Her visit concluded with a thanksgiving Eucharist on the following morning. During the introduction, a symbolic offering of a Coconut, and a lighted oil lamp were presented indicating her loving guidance and comforting words to all whom she met, bringing light to the life of all.

The Prayer of the Faithful was creatively prayed offering the praying, accompanying, accepting, blessing and working hands.

The visit of Sr. Celine Jacob brought abundant blessing to our community. We truly thanked God for all his accompaniment and guidance through the instrumentality of our dear Sr. Celine Jacob.

Sr. Anthonipillai P. Arul Malar

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SR. SEBASTIAN T. PHILOMENA



When the Province was slowly getting back to the normal rhythm of life after the glorious centenary celebrations of the Presence of FMA India, on 13 September 2022, dear Sr. Sebastian T. Philomena all too quickly said good-bye to the world and went into the embrace of the Lord of Life. She breathed her last in Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore after a few hours of the battle for life in the intensive care unit succumbing to the complications that had set in due to high sugar and gastro intestinal infection. She belonged to the community of St Mary's, Vellore, in Tamil Nadu, of the INM Province of St Thomas, the Apostle.

Sr S.T.Philomena was born on 13 February 1939 to Mr. Sebastian Thangavelu and Mrs. Selva Mary at Champion, in Kolar Gold Fields, as the second in the family of nine children with five brothers and three sisters of whom one sister and three brothers have already preceded her to the Father's House. She was popularly known as S.T. among the Sisters in the province and fondly addressed as Philomena by her dear ones.

Along with her siblings she worked hard to bring up the family and was a great support to her parents and so when she joined the congregation they were rather shaken up and Philomena too went through a critical

period during the initial formation. She attributes her victory over all this to her strong willpower, faith in God and a life of prayer. Having grown up in the large family she loved everyone and learnt valuable lessons for life especially the art of establishing relationships and living in the community. She credits the well-being of her brothers as they grew up to the formation they received in the oratory.

Philomena joined as an aspirant on 30 January 1968, after completing her T.S.L.C and S.S.L.C, and having worked as a teacher for almost 10 years in Alwarpet and St Anne's School, Broadway, Chennai. Her education in the FMM convent school formed in her the basics of spiritual life. In her home town, a Salesian parish, her Marian piety took strong roots and she imbibed the characteristics of Salesian spirituality. She owes the blossoming of her vocation to the education she received from the FMM Sisters where she made a vow to remain a virgin forever but took a definite choice to be an FMA only after almost ten years.

During her formative period, she had difficulties in learning English but with grit and determination, she mastered it by speaking only in English. A word in the ear of some sisters and her faith in God helped her to strengthen her vocation and when she had almost decided to return home Sr Regina Colombo, her novice formator played a great role by accompanying her to vocational maturity. In her autobiography, she says that she went through many difficulties like misunderstandings, non-acceptance, and a feeling of not being wanted and not cared for.

Sr Philomena worked in many houses of the province as a teacher, headmistress, and boarding assistant teaching and dealing with both boys and girls. After her retirement from the teaching service in the schools, she got enthusiastically into other forms of apostolate but was always a teacher. She embraced all

types of apostolic services; was in charge of boarding children and teaching needlework to the workroom girls; zealous animator of parish activities with a keen interest in the formation of basic Christian communities. She rendered her service to the communities also as an economer. Her passion was for prison ministry in which she got involved for the past sixteen years from 2006 to 2022. Another part of the mission she enjoyed most was the parish animation and visiting families. Speaking of her Salesian sensitivity she affirms that she is a very happy person contented with her Salesian vocation and never ceases to express her gratitude to God for this precious gift.

While still basking in the joy of having reaped a golden harvest in her life and mission as FMA, Sr S.T. Philo, did not even give us a few brief moments to bid her a final farewell! She wanted, perhaps, to preserve intact the luster of the Gift of Gold she had offered to her Lord and Master and so hurried to reach the bliss of eternity! Her 83 years of life and 51 years of consecrated life in the Salesian Family are an invitation to us for a life of commitment to a cause, especially to that of the poor and the vulnerable, and determination to pursue the lofty goals we have set for ourselves, to live through the difficulties of life with a strong faith in the Lord who has called us, and finally to look to him alone to receive the reward for a life of fidelity.

A Brief Profile of Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan FMA



“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord”. This was true of Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan who winged her way to heaven on Thursday 22 September 2022 from Sacred Heart Novitiate, Ranchi. She was well prepared to meet the Master of life who came to take her unexpectedly while praying the holy Rosary along with the Sister nurse, and the caretaker. Sr Philomena was a known diabetic for the past many

years but in the morning hours of 22nd September she was found with a very high blood pressure and high sugar, and immediate medical assistance was given to her. Noting her breathlessness and serious condition, Fr. Punam Kindo, the assistant Parish Priest of Don Bosco Hatia was requested to administer her the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick which she received consciously after which she even handed over a medal of Our Lady to him. The remainder of the day was spent calmly though with occasional bouts of breathlessness and late in the evening she breathed her last peacefully.

From 2018 Sr. Philo suffered from various health and age-related problems, and had to relinquish her normal activities of conducting classes for the novices and other responsibilities which she always carried out with enthusiasm, dedication, zest and commitment. From 2021 she was confined to bed accepting with loving resignation her inability. Nevertheless, her Salesian joy and serenity always prevailed until the end.

Sr. Philomena Prabalanathan was born on 6 August 1934, at Royapuram, Chennai to Mr.G.D. Prabalanathan and Mrs. Antonietta Kulandaisamy. Her father was a Salesian cooperator and her mother a member of the Legion of Mary. They were blessed with six children (two boys and four girls). Sr. Philo was the fourth child in the family. Her home being close to the parish church, the family never missed the daily Mass and the Sacraments. Her mother played a significant role in her life and inculcated in her the desire to be a religious. Whenever her mother visited the holy places she always brought religious articles for Philomena, and for others eatables. Her maternal aunt, who was a cloistered Carmelite nun used to write to her encouraging her to become a religious. Reading her letter she used to tell her mother, "Mother, I am that daughter".

When she completed her class XI studies at "St. Ann's School" Royapuram, one of her neighbors who was pursuing Teacher's training in Mary Immaculate Training School, run by the Salesian Sisters at Tirupattur, inspired her to join the same, which in the long run paved the way for hearkening to the call of the Lord. On her arrival at Tirupattur, Sr. Virginia Gnavi welcomed her with joy and warmth, and Philomena immediately decided within her to become a Salesian sister. Sr Philomena later shared that a picture of the Sacred Heart in the Convent helped her to make the right choice of becoming a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. She spent five years in Tirupattur, two years of training and three years of teaching in the school. She was all in all for the sisters by helping them with boarding assistance, sacristy and clerical work which made her a lovable person to the boarders and sisters. While she was doing her Teacher's training, her younger sister Gemma joined the Sisters of St. Ann, which closed the door of religious life for Philomena because her mother told her, "I promised God to give one daughter and now it is fulfilled."

Even then, Sr Philomena continues to cherish in her

the desire to be a religious. Finally, with the assistance of the parish priest Fr. Schlooz SDB, she succeeded to enter the Aspirantate on 24 May 1956 at St. Francis Xavier's Convent, Broadway, Madras where she was welcomed by the Provincial Mother Cesira Gallina. She became a postulant on 31 January 1957 and entered the novitiate on 5 August 1957 at Sacred Heart Convent, Katpadi and made her first profession on 5 August 1959 at Katpadi. She made her profession in perpetuity on 5 August 1965 at Katpadi, Vellore. In 1963 she did her graduation in Arts and in 1965 she also completed her Bachelor of Education becoming a full-fledged teacher. From 1968 -1971 she did her studies in *Pedagogico*, Turin and obtained a diploma in *Scienze Religiose* from "Pontificium Athenaeum Salesianum". She also frequented the course in Spiritual Theology from *Pontificio Istituto di Spiritualita' Teresianum* in Rome with specialization in the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

During her 63 years of committed and enthusiastic religious life she rendered her services in the communities of Katpadi from 1959 -1965 as a teacher and assistant; in Vellore from 1965 - 1968 as vicar and teacher; in Auxilium Home Katpadi from 1971 - 1973 as superior and teacher. From 1973 -1979 she was in Bangalore as novice Mistress and Provincial councilor; from 1979 -1987 she was in Kodambakam, first as Animator and vice-provincial, and then as Provincial. After the bifurcation of the province of Calcutta in 1987, she was appointed as the Provincial of Shillong Province from 1987 - 1993 after which she joined the province of Calcutta. From 1993 to 1999 she was in Ranchi as Novice Mistress and provincial councilor; from 1999 - 2005 she was the Animator of the community of Barasat and vice - Provincial. From 2005 until the Lord called her to himself she was in the novitiate community at Ranchi as vicar and accountant, a responsibility which she carried out with devotion and passion. She also conducted classes on Constitutions, Liturgy and Catechism for the novices,

as well as accompanied the second novitiate Sisters whenever it was held in Ranchi.

Her life lived in simplicity, charity, humility and joy, and the responsibility that she shouldered as Provincial of the undivided Province of Chennai, now comprising of the provinces of Chennai, Bangalore and Tiruchirappalli; the Provincial of the undivided Province of Shillong, now embracing of Shillong and Guwahati Province, and as the Novices formator of Southern Province and that of Kolkata speak volumes of her magnanimity of heart, her great personality, her leadership with a vision and passion, her maternal approach with care and concern. Sr. Philomena had grasped thoroughly the FMA Constitutions and Regulations, making the spirit of the articles her own, keeping it in her heart, mind, daily life and mission. She transmitted the same to the younger generations with gusto and creativity, implementing innovative devices and methods.

She had a unique style of giving goodnight thoughts, often starting with a joke, a short story or an anecdote driving home the message she wanted to communicate to her audience. She was an efficient and effective teacher and educator who was able to impart her lessons and conduct conferences with great clarity and unction. Her life story has etched the hearts of many. Sr. Philo's heart always leaped towards the poor and needy, the oratorians were the portion and cup of her activity on Sunday. When she was in Ranchi, she started a group known as 'Follow me' group for the young children of the school to encourage them to follow the Master's call. Witnessing to her divine call and inspired by her teachings, three of them have become part of our Institute today. One of them says: "Sr. Philo's constant encouragement and guidance has led me to embrace religious life. She used to call us 'my own' which enhanced my call to religious life. I used to share with her everything, my sorrows, difficulties and struggles. She is my model to be an authentic FMA."

Sr. Philo left no stone unturned to be in touch with her novices, sisters and friends with her simple style of writing, with a note of affection, a gentle advice and the assurance of her prayers, also with an added gift which had its foundation in the example of her mother. When she was a little girl her mother used to take her along with her to the hospital to help the people to write their letters in Tamil on postcards and post them to their respective locations.

A true and exemplary religious without any guile, she was a model FMA who lived and spread the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello with great fervour, vehemence and passion. Her spirit of faith, prayer, total commitment, serenity, joy and Salesian cheerfulness speak volumes of her authenticity of life as a genuine Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, worthy of emulation. She lived a life of poverty and essentiality, rather, a minimalistic lifestyle, being content with what was strictly necessary. Never a word of complaint escaped her lips but always thankful, with a spirit of humility and lowly attitude. A woman of deep piety, she was wise and prudent in her style of animation and governance. She always spoke well of others and was ever appreciative and encouraging in her ways and demeanour.

A stalwart missionary, her legacy of authenticity, witnessing and credible life, her life of dedication, joy and Salesian simplicity will linger on in the sands of time, in the hearts of those who knew her and had the fortune of living with her. She has contributed much to the growth, vitality and development of the Salesian charism in the south and north, east and west of our sub-continent during these past 100 years of FMA presence in India. She was a pearl of great price, a valiant and courageous woman of faith, simple yet daring, loving and giving, and a jewel in the crown of Salesian glory.

Thank you dear Sr Philo, for your exemplary religious life lived in Salesian joy and cheerfulness, total surrender and availability, simplicity and frankness,

the end of your life. May you be the crown of eternal glory among the saints and angels, and intercede for our Province and the FMA India that you loved dearly.

Provincial



To the Communities

Special THANKS to the Contributors

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Centenary Celebrations Report by
Centenary Documentation Team
- Dr. Sr. Amala Valarmathy Deroose



CANONICAL VISITATION (INM) - AUGUST - NOVEMBER, 2022



