



PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
Auxilium, Nongthymmai – Shillong – 793014, Meghalaya

01.01.2012

My dear Sisters,

On this first day of 2012, I wish every one of you a very happy and a grace - filled New Year. The New Year brings with it hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow. We are privileged to begin the New Year in the company of Mary, whose title “Mother of God” affirms equally the humanity and the divinity of Jesus, whose coming into this world brings new life and love. The New Year reminds us of this gift of new life and love. Mother Mazzarello in her conference at the end of the year 1880 quoted a proverb which says “New Year should bring a new way of life”. Therefore, at the threshold of this New Year we shall strive to live each day as a new beginning and a new opportunity to make everything new.

The New Year is set before us like an unwritten volume – all its pages blank. Let us write upon each day’s page things that at the end of the year we will look upon them with rejoicing than regret.

New Year Prayer

The New Year is here.

I will begin with a smile and resolve to be agreeable

I will not criticize, for I refuse to waste my valuable time

The New Year has one aspect in which I know I am equal with all the others – Time

In this New Year I am determined to study to improve myself for tomorrow I may be wanted and I might be found lacking

In this New Year I begin by doing, and not wasting time

In one week I will be miles beyond the person I am today

I will not be same this year as I was last year

In this New Year I will not imagine what I would do if things were different

They are not different. Never are they.

I will make a success with what ever material I have

In this New Year I refuse to spend time in worrying about what might happen

I am going to spend time making things happen

In this New Year I will stop saying “If I had time.....” I know I will never “find” time

If I want time it is now God grant me the grace to know how to smile at life in this New Year as a gift of your love, and as a means of making happy those especially who are dear to me.

New Provincials - INS and ING

We have already crossed the threshold of 2012 which heralds not only a New Year but the good news of the nomination of the two Provincials: Sr. Isabella Suja for the Province of Shillong and Sr. Elizabeth George for Guwahati. On behalf of the entire Province we extend to them our “**Heartiest Congratulations**”. We promise them our sincere prayers, collaboration and support and wish them a fruitful ministry in the noble service of animation.

World Day of Peace

Today we celebrate the world Day of Peace. This year, the Holy Father, Benedict XVI devoted his message for the XLV World Day of Peace to the theme of education: *“Educating Young People in Justice and Peace”*, in the conviction that the young, with their enthusiasm and idealism, can offer new hope to the world. His Message is also addressed to parents, families and all those involved in the area of education and formation, as well as to leaders in the various spheres of religious, social, political, economic and cultural life and in the media.

As members of a Congregation that is dedicated to the education of the young people, this message is addressed to each one of us. I am inserting a copy of this message. Let us read, meditate and apply it to our apostolate.

Triennial Evaluation

The year 2012 is very important for the Institute. The Inter Provincial Triennial Evaluation is to be held in the different Provinces of our Institute. The Triennial Evaluation Meet for FMA – PCI will be in Bangalore from January 24 – 28, 2012. Mother General and four Councilors: Sr. Giuseppina Teruggi - Councillor for Social Communication, Sr. Villa Tallone - Economer General, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, and Sr. Kathleen Taylor - Visiting Councillors will be coming for the same. We warmly welcome them and invoke the Holy Spirit to empower them.

Strenna 2012

For the Salesian Family, 2012 is a year dedicated to going back to the life story of Don Bosco and coming to know it better. The Strenna for 2012 which the Rector Major entrusts to the Salesian Family continues along the lines he gave to the Salesians in view of the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco (1815-2015) and officially launched on 16 August. The members of the Salesian Family are being called to come to know in depth the life story of Don Bosco in order to re-present his image today and to continue the mission entrusted to them: the education and the evangelization of the young.

At the beginning Rector Major points out that knowledge of Don Bosco, even making use of the methods associated with historical research, ought to make clear the great dedication he had to the young and the presence and the action of God in his life; these are the two elements which characterize the inner structure of the Salesian Charism. There are three compelling reasons for an accurate and profound historical knowledge of Don Bosco:

- to bridge the chronological, geographical and cultural gap which inevitably exists between the experience of the Piedmontese saint living in Valdocco and the various works nowadays spread throughout 132 different countries;
- to keep alive in the Salesian Family its own history, to organize it and make it accessible so as to consolidate its own culture in the face of historical, social and cultural changes;
- since many groups of the Salesian Family in their own official documents refer to Don Bosco as their guide and model.

Referring to the current situation regarding the writing of Salesian history, the Rector Major indicates some of the criteria required to produce an accurate history of Don Bosco that will help the religious and the lay people of the Salesian Family to take up and to incarnate nowadays the criteria which inspired and guided him. In particular the Rector Major mentions two key items.

The first is the dream of John Bosco at nine years of age which itself includes several pointers: his field of action (the young); the purpose of his apostolate (to help them grow as individuals through education); the educational method (the Preventive System); the context within which everything is to be done (the wonderful plan of God who loves the young).

The second is “The Memoirs of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Sales” which contain, above all, the spiritual and pastoral journey of Don Bosco. Written by Don Bosco for his spiritual sons so that they might know about the beginnings of his vocation and of the Salesian work, they contain his motivations and choices.

Let us make this Strenna the object of study and reflection in the coming days.

Spiritual Retreat – Group

The spiritual retreat for the school Sisters and boarding assistants will be preceded by the animation programme on “Preventive System”. The retreatants are supposed to be in Bellefonte by the 7th January before 5 pm.

Jan. 08 – 11 (lunch) - Animation Programme

Jan. 11 – 18 - Spiritual Retreat

Jan. 18 - Team meeting

We wish our Sisters a very happy and holy retreat.

Congratulations dear Sr. Mary

On January 06, this year Sr. Mary Mascarenhas will be celebrating 70 years of fidelity at the service of the Lord. As a true daughter of Don Bosco she is ever young in her mind and heart. Her dynamism and love for the young at this age is truly to be appreciated. We thank God for her life of love, service and fidelity. The celebration at Provincial level will be later, together with Sr. Liliana Marak who will be celebrating her 60 years of fidelity in May. Let us keep both of them in our prayers.

Salesian Feasts

The month of January draws our attention to the Salesian feasts. 22nd we keep the feast of Blessed Laura Vicuna, 24th feast of St. Francis de Sales and the month is crowned with the feast of our father and founder Don Bosco. These feasts invite us to know their life, interiorize their message, keep alive the Charism handed over to us in its integrity and live it in a creative fidelity.

Second Novitiate

On January 05 – February 05, twelve of our Sisters together with five Sisters from Guwahati Province will commence their first phase of the Second Novitiate at Auxilium Convent, Nongthymmai. Our Sisters are:

Sr. Celibon Maslai

Sr. Celina Maslai

Sr. Habathmulang Dkhar

Sr. Irine Lalmanpuui

Sr. Janicia Nongrum

Sr. Madona Lytep

Sr. Mary Conception Wahlang

Sr. Merilyn Wahlang

Sr. Philina Kholar

Sr. Rosina Tariang

Sr. Sangma Jomita

Sr. Sun Elisistina

Let us support them with our prayers.

Unity Octave

Every year the Church celebrates the Unity Octave from January 18 – 25, to remind us of our duty and responsibility to pray and work for the unity of all Christians. Besides the prayer let us use our creativity to celebrate the unity Octave together with our brethren of the other denominations with whom we are living together in our locality so that the prayer of Jesus “that all may be one” [Jn. 17: 20-26] may become a reality.

Come and See

This year we will be having the come and see programme for all those girls who opted for us during the diocesan Vocation Camps from 28-31 January, 2012 at Auxilium, Nongthymmai. The letters are already sent to them. The local Vocation Promoters are kindly requested to visit these girls and their families so as to know their family backgrounds and encourage them to take part in the Programme. Let us follow them up.

Prayers requested for the sick:

- Father of Sr. Maristella and Sr. Rina Kharthangmaw who is serious.
- Mother of Sr. Bontila Makdoh
- Sister of Sr. Elizabeth Thannimootil
- Maternal Grandmother of Sr. Victoria Saioo
- Sister of Sr. Mary Mascarenhas
- Brother-in-law of Sr. Ronjilla Sangma

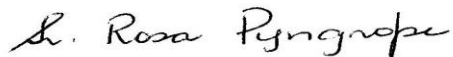
Prayers requested for the departed:

- 20 years old niece of Sr. Jubanlak Phawa
- Uncle of Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw
- Uncle of Risuk Dkhar

We offer our sincere condolences to the family members and assurance of prayers for the departed souls.

I conclude my circular entrusting ourselves to our Blessed Mother, teacher and guide that she may intercede for us the grace to begin this year with firm determination for holiness.

With love, prayers and every good wish,



Sr. Rosa Pyngrope
Provincial.