



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

Meghalaya

CIR/ISB/4/2012

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium, Nongthymmai.

I would also like to convey to you the greetings from our Sisters of other Indian Provinces and from those whom I met in Jerusalem.

I have just returned from the Holy Land after my Spiritual Retreat. As the disciple of Emmaus I can't but speak about the beautiful and unique experiences I had in the land of Jesus. Hence, I bring to you the wishes and blessings of Jesus. Deep within me I feel that He wants me to tell you that He loves us and wants us to love Him and to love one another as He loves us.

All around the Holy Land: The Holy Sepulchre, Calvary, Bethlehem, Nazareth and everything speaks volumes of the tremendous love of God manifested to us in a tangible way in His beloved Son Jesus. The sight of thousands of Pilgrims who come from all over the world to the Holy Land to profess their faith and show their love for Christ is something very touching, inspiring and thought provoking. Rev. Fr. Mario Queriento from Venice – Italy, our Preacher helped us understand and reflect in-depth the History of Salvation realized and fulfilled in Christ Jesus through the Paschal Mystery. All of us (15 Asian Provincials) were indeed enriched and vivified. We SAW, HEARD, TOUCHED and CONTEMPLATED the marvels of God's love as we moved from place to place. I prayed earnestly, fervently and lovingly for each one of you, for your parents, near and dear ones and the young people with whom we live and work and for whom we have consecrated our life to God.

Sr. Maria Troncatti

Sr. Maria Troncatti was born at Corteno Golgi (Brescia) on 16 February 1883. She grew up in a large family happily working in the fields and caring for her younger brothers and sisters, in the warm and affectionate atmosphere created by her parents. She regularly attended catechism in her parish, where she developed a deep Christian spirit and opened her heart to the values of a religious vocation. In obedience to her father and Parish Priest, however, she waited until she reached adulthood before asking to be admitted to the Institute of the Salesian sisters. She made her first profession in 1908 at Nizza Monferrato. During the First World War (1915-18) Sr. Maria took a course in health care and worked as a Red Cross nurse in the military hospital. This experience was to prove very valuable in the course of her long missionary life in the Amazon forests of Ecuador. She left for Ecuador in 1922 and was sent to work among the Shuar people

where, together with two other Sisters, she began the difficult work of evangelization, in the midst of every kind of risk, including those caused by the animals of the forest and the perils of swirling rivers to be waded across or crossed on fragile 'bridges' made from creepers, or on the shoulders of the indigenous men.

Sr. Maria's missionary generosity was expressed through her life dedicated to the Gospel and to human development, especially for women, amongst the Shuar in the jungles of Amazonian Ecuador. Everything she did was marked by the requirements of being faithful to God's love. In His name she made His compassion and mercy known through every kind of physical and spiritual need until her death at 86 years of age.

Sr. Maria died in a tragic air accident at Sucúa on August 25, 1969, offering her life for reconciliation between the colonials and the indigenous people. Her remains lie at Macas, in the Province of Morona (Ecuador).

We are at the threshold of her Beatification. Let us be in solidarity and in communion with the whole Institute and in particular with our sisters at Ecuador.

The beatification of Sr. Maria Troncatti is an invitation for us to appreciate the life of this consecrated missionary in the light of the Year of Faith and along the path of the Salesian family gearing towards the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco. As Daughters of Mary Help of Christians we are inspired and encouraged to keep on striving on the path to holiness.

Opening of the Diamond Jubilee of the Province

The opening of the Diamond Jubilee of our Province is another opportunity to set our hearts ablaze with the ardent love for Jesus and for the Institute, with greater determination and urgency to return more than ever to the spirit of our origins.

We recall with gratitude our Pioneers and past Provincials who have given their valuable contributions to the growth of our Province.

Month of the Holy souls

"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, ..." (2 Macabees 12:4). This month is dear to each one of us for we are more united in a stronger bond of love with our dear sisters, parents, near and dear ones who have gone before us. Let us be generous and gracious towards them by praying for them so that they may soon be counted among the blessed and saints in heaven.

34th Annual Meet of the Association of the Salesian Co-operators

The 34th Annual Meet of the Salesian Co-operators was held at Auxilium Convent, Agartala. The theme chosen was "Together for a better world the Don Bosco way". It was a wonderful celebration and a meaningful gathering to thank God together for the gift of the 12 aspirants who made the promise to be part of this great family.

The participants were 168 in all, out of whom 154 were full pledged Co-operators. A big group of 135 Co-operators were from the various units of Shillong. The meeting was successful. Thanks to the collaboration, hard work and sacrifices of our sisters under the leadership of Sr. Celine D'Cunha and the Co-operators of Nandan Nagar unit. I'm grateful also to Sr. Elizabeth Vazhakalayil and the sisters of Bishramganj community for the warm welcome and goodness

extended to the Co-operators. May God bless and reward you. Special thanks to Sr. Christina Kharkongor, the FMA Provincial Delegate, Mr. Anthony Laloo, Provincial Co-ordinator and the Provincial Councillors for keeping the Association alive and active.

Blessed Artemide Zatti

The 13th November recalls to our mind Blessed Artemide Zatti, a splendid example of a Coadjutor according to the heart of Don Bosco, who became a saint through his selfless service to the poor, in a hospital at San Jose in Viedma all his life. He was a very kind and able infirmarian. One of the doctors who lived with him for a number of years said, "Brother Zatti was not only very capable in looking after the sick and dispensing medicine to them, but he himself was a medicine in as much as his very presence was a good curative factor. He healed people with his presence, his voice, his jokes and his little songs". He died of cancer on March 15, 1951. The process of his beatification started on March 23, 1980. On July 7, 1997 he was declared venerable and on April 14, 2002 was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II.

Blessed Magdalene Morano

At the age of 30, Magdalene took courage to tell her mother of her long standing desire of becoming a religious, so on 15th August 1878, accompanied by her brother Peter, Magdalene went to Mornese. Mother Mazzarello welcomed her and guided her first steps. When meeting Don Bosco she said, "Now I am with your daughters... tell me how I can make myself pleasing to Jesus and Mary Help of Christians? I want to be a saint." She corresponded with God's grace and strife on the path of holiness.

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On November 21, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of our Blessed Virgin Mary. The consecration of Mary to God presented all the conditions of the most perfect sacrifice: it was prompt, generous, joyous, unregretted, without reservation. How agreeable it must have been to God. May our consecration of ourselves to God be made under Her patronage, assisted by Her powerful intercession and united with Her ineffable merits. Let us reconsider our vocation in the light of the Paschal Mystery, committing ourselves totally in the service of God without self interest and search for popularity in our mission with the young people.

Solemnity of Christ the King

On 25th November we celebrate the Feast of the Solemnity of Jesus Christ the Sovereign King. Jesus is King because he witnesses to Truth. He revealed himself to be a King, in the sense that He made himself known as the Messiah for whom the Jewish people awaited: the Messiah had been proclaimed as the ideal King who was to crown all the aspirations of a nation full of hope. This feast points us toward beginnings and ends and, in so doing, emphasizes an important truth that can only be grasped through faith. Our faith and its Liturgical practices proclaim to a world hungry for meaning that Jesus Christ is the "Alpha", and the "Omega", the beginning and the end. He is the Giver, the Governor and the fulfillment of all time. Let us asks ourselves the following questions:

- Is Jesus the King of my life?
- Do I give him power to rule over my life?
- What are the attitudes I need to cultivate in order to give Him the honourship as King of my life?

A new Missionary

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for the gift of Sr. Ronjilla Sangma who generously accepted the clarion call to be a missionary. She left for Rome on 6th November. At present she is in the community of Ventisette (27), Turin. She is offered to have some experience in nursing care in Cottelengo.

We wish her good luck and happy apostolate in the land of our Father and Founder.

Year of faith

In this Year of Faith we are called to deepen our own faith and the faith of all those entrusted to our care. Let us take great care to prepare well our Catechism and Moral science classes so that we can deepen the faith of our children and save as many souls as possible through these classes. I would like to remind you what Mother Mazzarello said, "Catechism must be Catechism". We really need to give priority to this subject in our schools, boardings and parishes.

I'm sure all the communities have received the copy of the Apostolic letter of Pope Benedict XVI, "The Door of Faith". Kindly read, reflect, deepen and share it. Bring out also different initiatives to live the Year of faith meaningfully. It would be nice if you record the events and initiatives taken to celebrate the Year of faith in your communities and forward the report to the Provincial office.

In preparation for the canonical visit

We will soon receive the programme of the Canonical Visitation 2013. Therefore I would like to remind you to offer prayers ahead for the fruitfulness of the visit. Please keep all the necessary documents ready and upto date. I would like to request you to send a brief written account of the reality of the community from a socio-cultural, religious and economic perspective. You can reach it to the office by the 3rd January when the sisters come for the Spiritual Retreat.

Novena of the Immaculate Conception

I would like to remind you about the Novena to Mary Immaculate Conception that will begin on the 29th November. Let us do it fervently and with filial love and trust in our Blessed Mother.

Communications

- Sr. Felicita Syngoh sends you her wishes and thanks you for the prayers offered for her. Though she has lot of pain, it is very edifying to see her tranquil, cheerful and serene. Let us continue to support and strengthen her with our prayers.
- Sr. Celestina Syngkli is recovering after a major operation on the leg. Let us also pray for her.
- World Congress of Salesian Co-operators for the approval of the PAL (Project of apostolic life) was held at Pisana, Rome from 9th - 11th November. Sr. Christina Kharkongor along with Mr. Anthony Laloo the Provincial Co-ordinator and Mr. Marius Kharkongor, the Provincial Councillor took part in this important meet.

- The 'Come and See' programme for the girls who have opted for us in the general Diocesan Vocation Camps will be held at Auxilium, Nongthymmai from December 12-15, 2012. Let us work hard to promote vocations and offers our prayers for those girls who will be participating. Those who have not attended the general Vocation Camps can also take part in it.
- Many communities are already having daily Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. I request all the other communities who have not yet started to do so for the Spiritual needs of the Province and for other intentions.
- We congratulate Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB, Provincial of Guwahati who was elected as National President of the CRI during its meeting held in Hyderabad on 30th October 2012.
- Sr. Hilda Baragan will be returning to the Province on 20th November after a long holiday and a big struggle to get her visa. We joyfully welcome her back to the Province.

Kindly note the dates for the Retreats of 2013.

January			
Group I:	3 rd	-	Arrival
	4 - 6 th	-	Course
	6 th - 13 th	-	Retreat
	Participants	-	Headmistresses and School Sisters
	Venue	-	Bellefonte
	Preacher	-	Fr. John msfs

January			
Group II:	17 th	-	Arrival
	18 th - 20 th	-	Course
	20 th - 28 th	-	Retreat
	Participants	-	Sisters
	Venue	-	Bellefonte
	Preacher	-	Fr. John msfs

May - June			
Group III:	25 th	-	Arrival
	26 th - 28 th	-	Course
	28 th - 4 th	-	Retreat
	Participants	-	Animators
	Venue	-	Auxilium, Nongthymmai
	Preacher	-	Fr. V.V. Paul SDB

June			
Group IV:	8 th	-	Arrival
	9 th - 11 th	-	Course
	11 th - 18 th	-	Retreat
	Participants	-	Sisters
	Venue	-	Auxilium, Nongthymmai
	Preacher	-	Fr. V.V. Paul SDB

Prayers requested for the sick

1. Sister and Niece of Sr. Elizabeth Thannimootil
2. Sister of Sr. Catherine Susngi
3. Brother and Sister (Sr. Edith Mascarenhas - INK) of Sr. Mary Mascarenhas
4. Sister of Sr. Teresa Kamsuan
5. Brother of Sr. Mary Kadicheeni
6. Aunty of Sr. Nelia Shullai
7. Father of Sr. Rosalin Warbah
8. Sister of Sr. Teilanda Syngkon
9. Sister of Sr. Tistabha Bareh

Prayers requested for the departed souls of..

1. Anita Pegado, the Aunty of Sr. Rosa Tuscano who died on 2nd Oct.
2. Zecharias Maslai, the father of Sr. Philina Kholar who died on 11th Oct.
3. Melanius Jyrwa, the brother of Sr. Maristella Jyrwa who died on 2nd Nov.
4. Bernadus Khonglah, the father of Sr. Anita Dhar who died on 6th Nov.
5. Martina Maslai, the maternal aunty of Sr. Celina Maslai who died 6th Nov.
6. William Maslai, the maternal uncle of Sr. Celibon Maslai who died on 7th Nov.

Before I conclude I would like to wish you a happy concluding of the Liturgical year and fervent preparation for the advent season.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Isabella Suja

Sr. Isabella Suja FMA
Provincial