



# Provincial Circular

## Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/10/2019

01.06.2019

Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We are coming towards the end of the first half of the year. From the very beginning we have been reflecting on the theme of Holiness. The monthly reflections and reminders to live a life of holiness was substantiated and supported by other events that took place and means offered during this first half of the year viz, the different retreats and meetings organized by the Province, the circulars of Mother General and the enriching inputs by the Formation team from Rome. It's good to have a check on ourselves how this theme has guided our journey so far and how attuned we are to the opportunities made available to us in these months to grow in holiness. The study, reflection and deepening of the GC XXIV theme will further challenge and motivate us in the coming months of the year in our quest for holiness.

The Novena for Pentecost is an apt moment to implore God's Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the promptings of God and His invitation to Holiness. One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to impart the Holiness of God to us. Like our Blessed Mother and the Apostles at the Cenacle, let us open ourselves to the blessings and opportunities that God will unwrap to us. We also have very many solemnities in the Church in this month which will gradually remind us of our vocation to Holiness and many models of the saints who prove that Holiness is possible for all.

### *Pentecost - 9 June*



In celebrating the solemnity of Pentecost, we commemorate the truly great moments in the life of the Church. With the Sunday of Pentecost, the holy season of Easter will come to an end but that does not mean that our fervor grows feeble, our enthusiasm dampens and our faith falters. Instead, the Holy Spirit comes to give us many spiritual gifts, which prepare us to enter into relationship with Christ and embark on our mission more joyfully and more enthusiastically. At Pentecost, the Disciples were filled with greater ardour to proclaim Christ and His Love. They let themselves be guided by His power and grace and were able to proclaim the Risen Christ and establish a heart-to-heart communication with the peoples of the world through the language of God's Love. On this great feast of the

Church, let us also allow ourselves be penetrated and permeated by the fire of the Holy Spirit, who comes upon us. Today the language that the Lord speaks to us is that of the Gospel of Easter and Pentecost: the language of love, friendship, attention to the weak and the poor, closeness to those who suffer, the language of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit is the source of power that meets our need and our desire to be holy. Let us implore His gifts to enfold our life and our mission, to enlighten our thoughts and words, to inspire our discernment and decisions... thus enthused by His power we may truly become the credible witnesses of God's Love to the world.

### *Holy Trinity - 16 June*

The Holy Trinity is always a great mystery that rejuvenates our faith and rekindles our loyalty to the Church's teachings. The Vatican document '*Catechism of the Catholic Church*' clearly states that the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith and the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith".

The communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit reveals to us tangibly that there exists an eternal divine community of Love perfectly united in itself in three distinct divine persons. By virtue of our Baptism, we are included into this community of Love. Our whole Christian life, our entire being and our spiritual sojourn here on earth therefore ought to be a replica and a reflection of this eternal community through our life of faith, our actions of love and our witness of communion in the love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Church Document reveals to us that the whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to us and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin. As we celebrate this great solemnity, let us ask ourselves if this mystery of faith is truly a meaningful and significant element of our faith life...and in what measure do we reflect the wholeness and holiness of the Holy Trinity in our daily lives.



### *Body and blood of Christ - 23 June*



The feast of Corpus Christi existed in the Church since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This feast takes our focus to the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and in His holy Church. It offers us the conviction that the infinite Son of God gave Himself entirely to His beloved Church not just a mere symbol of his love, but His very self, whole and complete. The Holy Eucharist becomes for us, then, a sign of our common faith and adoration. Throughout the ages, God has worked striking miracles to affirm the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Today in our own times too, we become united to the person and the mystical body of Christ through Holy Communion. We are all the more privileged to get to taste

this living miracle in the daily Holy Eucharist. However, our holy communion with Christ will become more fruitful only if we grow in our love and service of our neighbours. In the Eucharist we are in communion with Christ in His life and also in his death. As we participate in the great mystery of Christ's body and blood, we are reminded to habituate ourselves with the right disposition that Christ may abide in us and we in Him.

### *Sacred heart of Jesus - 28 June*

The devotion to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus is widely observed in the Church since time immemorial. On this day the Church invites the faithful to discover the source of God's infinite Love manifested in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The feast of the Sacred Heart is therefore, the feast of God's love towards humankind and the devotion to it reminds us that it is in the Sacred Humanity of Christ that we find the pattern for becoming fully human ourselves. Jesus' heart was pierced with a lance for our sins, his sorrowful heart bore all our iniquities, his heart was bruised with our negligence and our offence to His Love. This gap which humanity created with God through sin is reunited by the immeasurable and perennial love of Jesus. Celebrating this feast, we are invited to consider what Christ has done for us, opening the gates of Love and Grace for our salvation. We have nothing else but to reciprocate this love we have received so generously and so immensely by becoming channels of God's love for others. Pope St. John Paul II once said *"For evangelization today, the Heart of Christ must be recognized as the heart of the Church: It is He who calls us to conversion, to reconciliation. It is He who leads pure hearts and those hungering for justice along the way of the Beatitudes. It is He who achieves the warm communion of the members of the one Body. It is He who enables us to adhere to the Good News and to accept the promise of eternal life. It is He who sends us out on mission. The heart-to-heart with Jesus broadens the human heart on a global scale."* As we celebrate this solemnity of God's love, let us pray for the grace that we may reciprocate God's love in plentiful measures of our love in our mission and in our personal lives.



### *Immaculate heart of Mary - 29 June*



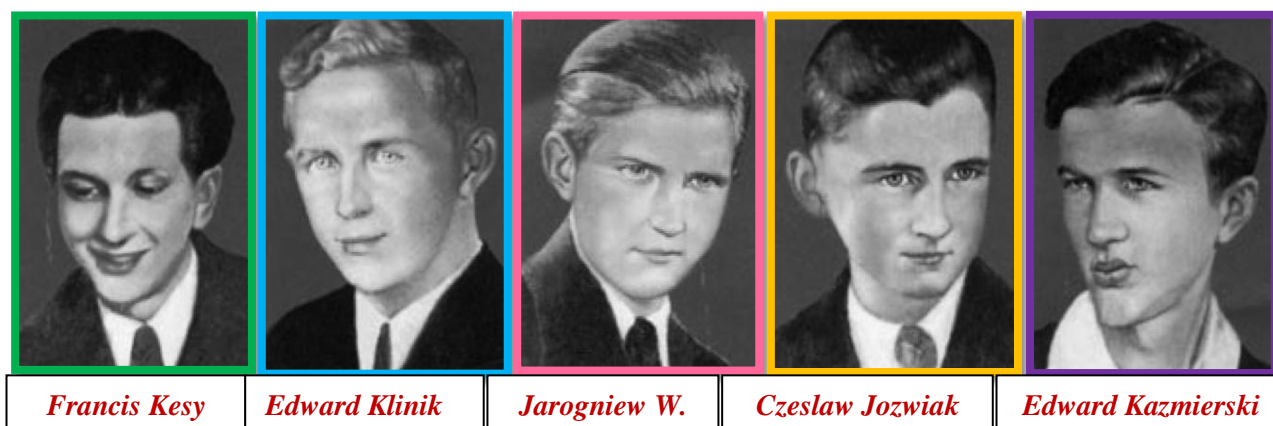
The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary follows immediately the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Immaculate Heart of Mary symbolizes a pure and ardent heart that conserves and contemplates the mysteries of God's love. At Calvary, the perfect hearts of Jesus and Mary were united for the salvation of humankind. Just as the Sacred Heart represents Christ's love for humankind, the Immaculate Heart represents the desire of the Blessed Virgin to bring all people to her Son. In the Holy Scripture, St. Luke twice refers to the heart of our Blessed Mother... *"As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."* (Lk 2, 19) and *"...His mother stored up all these things in her heart."* (Lk 2, 51). These Gospel references speak tangibly of the virginity and beauty of Mary's heart that preserves her joys and sorrows, her virtues and perfections, her



communion and love for God the Father, her maternal affection for her beloved son Jesus, her cooperation with the Spirit and her compassionate love for humanity.

In 1942 during the devastated conditions of World War II, Pope Pius XII dedicated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and in 1984; Pope John Paul II renewed this consecration. We pray for our world today torn down by different forms of unwanted attitudes that go against the love of God that in every human heart be born again the desire for God and His love, for peace, for justice and respect for the dignity of one another. On this day, we also pray for our Province and our Novitiate which keep the name feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

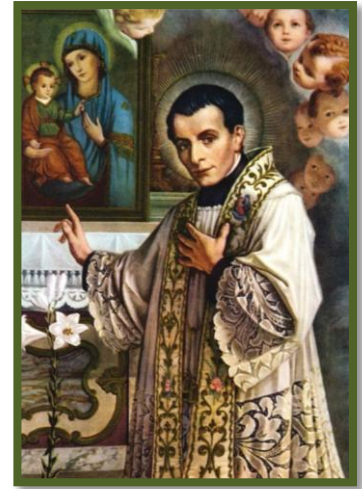
### *Blessed Francis Kesy and Companions - 12 June*



Don Bosco always stressed the importance of shaping the faith and piety of his pupils and leading them all on the way to sanctity. The same conviction was heroically lived by *Blessed Francis Kesy* and his four companions *Edward Klinik*, *Jarogniew Wojciechowski*, *Czesław Jozwiak* and *Edward Kazmierski*, who, notwithstanding the persecutions at a tender age lived with fidelity to the teachings of Don Bosco and the Salesian traditions. When Hitler invaded Poland at the beginning of World War II, the Salesian Youth Center where Francis and his 4 companions frequented was occupied and turned into a barrack for German soldiers. The youth continued to gather in some other places in the city and outside it. The five friends were involved in leading their companions, consciously engaged in their own human and Christian development. At that time of the German invasion, very many secret societies came about. On this pretext, in 1940 Francis and his companions were also arrested and were accused of being members of an illegal religious organization. They went to prison in a spirit of faith and lived out their Salesian spirituality faithfully. In spite of many tortures and interrogations, they always sustained themselves with constant prayer and with Salesian practices of piety- the Holy Rosary, the Novena to Mary Help of Christians and they celebrated liturgical feasts happily in their cell. They kept contact with their families through messages which often, they succeeded in sending secretly. Notwithstanding all these, their faith never wavered and they remained credible witnesses until the end. On 24 August 1942, when they were just in their 20s, they were martyred in the prison and were beatified on 13 June 1999 by John Paul II in Warsaw together with 108 Polish martyrs. The heroic life of these youngsters is an example for us today especially for our youth.

## St. Joseph Cafasso - 23 June

The Salesian Family celebrates God's holiness in his saints especially in St. Joseph Cafasso who was Don Bosco's teacher, spiritual mentor and director, and his faithful friend since they met in 1827 when Don Bosco was only 12 years old and Joseph was just a young cleric. He guided and supported Don Bosco in his vocation of working with the young people and became his adviser.



Don Cafasso's entire life was marked by joyful simplicity, by total love for Christ and by profound charity for the poorest people. After his priestly ordination while preparing himself in pastoral ministry, Cafasso brought to fulfillment his gifts as a spiritual director and his great spirit of charity. Don Bosco recalled that as a teacher, Cafasso had three main virtues: *calmness, wisdom and prudence*. For him the test of the lessons taught was the ministry of Confession, to which he himself devoted many hours of the day. Don Cafasso was indeed a popular preacher and confessor, seeming to have a special gift for discerning exactly what each penitent needed. He also had the ability to change hearts; Don Bosco said of him, *"A single word from him — a look, a smile, his very presence — sufficed to dispel melancholy, drive away temptation and produce holy resolution in the soul."* Don Cafasso also had a special charism towards prisoners and spent a great deal of his time hearing their confessions and helping them in any way he could to make them at peace with God.

A relationship of Don Cafasso and Don Bosco was beautifully brought out by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in one of his general audiences during the year of priest in 2010. It goes thus *"In all the fundamental decisions of his life, St John Bosco had St Joseph Cafasso to advise him, but in a very specific way. Cafasso never sought to form Don Bosco as a disciple 'in his own image and likeness', and Don Bosco did not copy Cafasso; he imitated Cafasso's human and priestly virtues, certainly and described him as 'a model of priestly life' but according to his own personal disposition and his own specific vocation; a sign of the wisdom of the spiritual teacher and of the intelligence of the disciple. The former did not impose himself on the latter but respected his personality and helped him to interpret God's will for him"*.

The secret of his life was simple: *'to be a man of God; to do in small daily actions what can result in the greater glory of God and the advantage of souls.'* May his calibre of simple daily steps to sanctity, hard work, life of prayer and ardent desire for the good of souls inspire and guide us in our educative mission with the young.

## Communications

**Home holidays:** Sr. Celestina Phawa, our missionary in South Sudan is in the Province for her home leave and a well deserved rest. She arrived in the Province on 28 May. We heartily welcome her back and wish her a happy stay in the Province.

**Happy home coming:**

- Hearty welcome to Sr. Ba-i-thiang Sten and Sr. Lepchi Sangma who are returning to the Province after the completion of the Intensive Juniorate in Guwahati. We thank Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal and Sisters of the Provincial House for the formative accompaniment of these two sisters.
- We warmly welcome back home Sr. Habathmulang Dkhar who will return to the Province after her 2 years of Spirituality course in Rome. She will be travelling from Rome on 30 June and will be arriving in the Province on 1 July. We wish her fruitful mission in the Province.

**Retreat:**

- Mother General and her Council will be making their spiritual retreat in the Holy Land from 2- 10 June 2019. Let us keep them in our prayerful remembrance for a fruitful encounter with the Lord. We implore God's Spirit upon them and pray in a special way for the fruitfulness of the forthcoming Plenum.
- The last retreat of this year which will be held from 6 - 13 June will be preached by Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ. The course which will precede the spiritual retreat will start at 9:00am on the 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude on 6<sup>th</sup> afternoon. All the participants are requested to reach the scheduled venue at FMA- Outreach latest by evening of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019. We send ahead our prayers for the fruitfulness of the retreat. Those who could not take part in the presentation of the guidelines in May are recommended to join in the June programme.

**Service in the National CRI Headquarters:** The National CRI made an urgent appeal to the Province for a competent sister to help in the CRI headquarters in New Delhi. The Provincial Council after discernment proposed the name of Sr. Theresa Phawa and the same was forwarded to Mother General for necessary permission. Having received her approval, Sr. Theresa will leave on 8<sup>th</sup> June. We wish her all the best and God's blessings for this service on behalf of the Province.

**Congratulations:** We extend our heartiest congratulations and warm greetings to all the Sisters, teachers and young people for the good results in the various examinations of the CBSE and different State Boards. We are proud of all our Sisters and teachers who have put sincere and laudable efforts to form our young people during the academic year.

**Second Novitiate:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Second Novitiate in preparation for the Final Profession will begin on 1 July at FMA Outreach. Let us accompany our 9 sisters with our prayers during this intensive and final stage of preparation for their definitive YES.

## *Prayers and Condolences*

- Our prayers and heartfelt condolences to Sr. Jenney Iawphniaw and her family at the demise of her dear mother on 14 May 2019.

- Our solidarity with Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA and the FMA Province of Chennai at the passing away of Sr. Perez Mary Maddalene FMA on 19 May 2019.
- We offer our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Felix Fernandez SDB and the Salesian Province of Panjim at the departure of Bro. Anthony Rocha SDB on 14 May 2019.
- We unite in prayers and solidarity with Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB and the Salesian Province of Guwahati at the passing away of Fr. Thomas Kochupurackal (K.A.) SDB on 25 May 2019.
- We offer our sincere prayers to Sr. Embok Suchiang, Sr. Martilin Nongkynrih and their families at the passing away of their maternal aunt and maternal uncle respectively.

May the dear departed ones rest safe in the arms of Jesus and pray for their loved ones.

We offer our prayers for all the sick members of our communities and families through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, especially for Sr. Linda Horne who is undergoing treatment at Neighrims hospital.

We are entering into the new month dedicated to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus - a month which reminds us constantly of the great love of God for us. It is typical in our region to have special and popular devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let us therefore not miss the opportunities that this month offers us to grow in Holiness and let us pray fervently for the grace to renew our love for God. May our lives be rekindled with God's own love to live faithfully our consecration and to share generously the signs of His love to all.

*"There is in the Sacred Heart the symbol of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return" - (Pope Leo XIII)*

Assuring you of my sisterly support and accompaniment!

Affectionately,



**Sr. Elizabeth George FMA**  
**Provincial**