



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

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Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

The 5th of August brings in a nostalgic feeling to everyone of us who encountered the love of the Lord and pledged our fidelity to him on this day. For some, this encounter may be a recent experience while for others it is a matter of a couple of years. Whatever may be the duration we need to preserve the intensity of this encounter of Love. Pope Francis in one of his homilies said: “*Never forget that first love*”, which is “*the joy of the first encounter with Jesus*”.

We thank God for the gift of vocations with which our Province is blessed – 24 young girls began their formative journey as aspirants, 21 postulants entered the novitiate, 17 Novices pronounced their first ‘**YES**’, the 51 Juniors renewed their vows and 9 Junior sisters made their final commitment. The presence of so many young persons who still respond to the call of God is a gift to be cherished and nurtured with love and gratitude to the Lord of the harvest.



Our Institute which came into existence on August 5, 1872 through the special intervention of Mary is heading towards the 150th anniversary of its foundation. For us in India we are also preparing to celebrate the centenary of the FMA Presence in India.

Mother Yvonne in her message from Mornese, the cradle of our Institute, announcing the celebration of the 150th year of the Institute’s foundation, invites all of us to spend these three years in an attitude of gratitude to God – gratitude for the great marvels He has accomplished in our life. We are the testimony of the different signs of His Love, in our life, in our mission... giving thanks for the life of the Institute, giving thanks for being one big family in the world, giving thanks for the newness of the mission all over the world in these 150 years, giving thanks for our own vocation [...] and for being educators who journey with the young in the world of education. She invites us not only to ‘*Give Thanks*’ but also of ‘*Being Thanks*’ – a perennial thanks throughout all time. May Mary help us to render thanks to God at every instance of daily life so as to be able to form young people who are enthused with gratitude and who share with other young people this same gratitude.

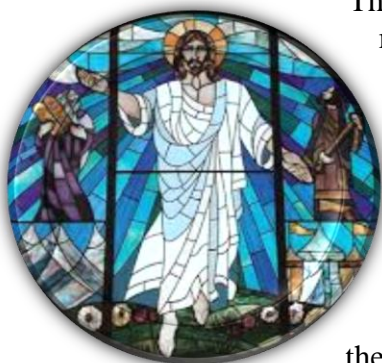
Let us prepare ourselves to live meaningfully the Triduum in preparation for this historic moment in the life of our Institute which coincides also with the centenary of the FMA presence in India.

Holiness - Secret of the Institute's fruitfulness

Mother General in her circular No, 921 says: *"The dream I carry in my heart and want to be realized in each community is to see ourselves as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who radiate joy, simplicity, humility, peace, charity and educative passion, Sisters rooted and founded in Christ, steadfast in the faith. Then it will be 'holiness with a community face'.*She further says *"As an Institute, we were born from a community whose ideal was holiness with a joyful face lived in a family spirit [...] It was a community built on listening to the Word of God, on the power of the Eucharist, on confidence in Mary Help of Christians. At the same time it was a community built on human weakness, yet following God's step at the price of continual reconciliation in the daily routine. Our journey of holiness lies right here! **Community relationships are authentic workshops of holiness, a continual school of love, of forgiveness, of patience and of gratuity**".*

As we begin anew our journey with the fervor of celebrating our professions or their anniversaries, let us make our communities truly workshops of genuine communion and sisterly relationships. Article 49 of our constitutions speaks of our community being gathered together by the Father and founded on the presence of the Risen Christ. Thus we shall welcome and accept one another as a gift of the Father and we shall seek to form "one heart and one soul" fulfilling the new commandment by which we will be known as Jesus' disciples. Community life gives us the surest means of sanctification. Let every sister, and particularly the 17 newly professed sisters who will form part of various communities truly find the space and ambient to actualize God's dream for each one of them.

Transfiguration of our Lord - August 6



This Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord invites us to look at the mystery of Jesus Christ, living among us, who is truly divine and truly human. At the time of His baptism and at the time of the Transfiguration, the Divine breaks through and a voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son".

The transfiguration is a ray of light that invites us to grasp the profound meaning of things; it is an invitation for us to live the Gospel values and to commit ourselves to discover the beauty of life. Only in this intimate communication do the disciples grasp the sense of the transfiguration and discover that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law.

Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Independence Day - August 15

For Christians in India, August 15 marks two important celebrations- the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven and Independence of India. The twin celebrations, is a reminder for us as Christians and as citizens of our Motherland India of the great significance of true liberation. Independence is celebrated as freedom from foreign rule and domination to self-rule and governance and the Assumption as a freedom from this limited and incomplete life to the bliss of eternal and perpetual life. In Mary's assumption, we see her victory over death; she is honored with the special privilege of being exempt from the decay of her body just as she was preserved immaculate from all stain of the original sin.



On this auspicious occasion, let us pledge our love for our country and pray for our political leaders. Let us pray that we enjoy freedom from all forms of evil that still keep our people chained and enslaved. Like Mary, who was a woman for others, let us practice works of mercy and joyously serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Sanctity in the Family

Blessed Augustus Czarторыski - August 2



Augustus Czarторыski was born in Paris on the 2nd August 1858, in exile, to the Polish Prince Ladislaw and Princess Mary Amparo, daughter of the Queen of Spain. When he was six, Augustus lost his mother. Between the age of 10 and 17 he studied in Paris and Krakow, but his health forced him to interrupt his studies and go to the south of Europe frequently in search of a better climate. Augustus was a sickly child and he spent much of his youth being shuttled to various places for his health. He was accompanied and tutored by a Polish patriot, Father Raphael Kalinowski, a man who was later canonized.

As he grew up, Augusto felt that he was not meant for the life of nobility and one day, when he was 20 years old, he wrote to his father: ***“I confess to you that I am tired of all the parties; they are superficial entertainments that cause me anguish and I feel myself ‘forced’ to make acquaintances with others at these banquets”.***

In May 1883 Don Bosco was in France. He was invited to Lambert Palace by Princess Margaret d’Orléans. Augustus served his Mass, and the saint said to him: ***“I have wanted to meet you for quite some time!”*** The prince was struck by his encounter. Indeed, after his first encounter with the Saint, he was more resolute than ever to answer God’s call by becoming a Salesian. Following this he went several times to Turin to meet Don Bosco. He insisted with him that he be allowed to enter the Salesians, but the Founder was not convinced. Augustus spoke with Pope Leo XIII, who invited Don Bosco to accept him. After renouncing all the comforts of his noble family and against the wish of his family, he entered the Novitiate in July 1887 when he was 29 years. He was ordained priest at Saint Remo, on the 2nd April 1892. Unfortunately his steadily weakening health did not permit him to share fully the Salesian active apostolate and was battling with the final stages of tuberculosis. He offered his life and sufferings for the good of the young, the salvation of souls and the Congregation just as Don Bosco did. Fr. Augustus died barely a year after his ordination at Alassio on the 8th April 1893 and was beatified by John Paul II on 25 April 2004.

Blessed Maria Troncatti – August 25

Maria Troncatti was born in Corteno Golgi, Brescia, Italy, on February 16, 1883. She grew up in a large, happy and devout family dividing her time between the farm and caring for her little brothers and sisters, in the warm and loving atmosphere created by her exemplary 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. As a young girl, Maria read the newsletter of the Salesian Sisters and was fascinated by the stories of those missionaries and thus discerned her religious vocation at an early age. In her 20s she entered the Congregation, taking as her life goal “charity to the point of being crushed to pieces.” She was a Red Cross nurse in



the military hospital in Varazza in 1915-1918 and left for the missions of Ecuador in 1922 and spent the rest of her life there.

Together with two other Sisters, she began the difficult work of evangelization and education among the Shuar people. She was in her mid 40s when she headed for the Amazon on horseback to begin her work among these peoples. They faced dangers of every kind: the wild beasts of the forest; the fast flowing rivers that had to be waded through or crossed on fragile "bridges" made from creepers, in canoe, or on the shoulders of the Indians. Mamacita as she was known to the people, was their nurse, surgeon, orthopedist, dentist, anaesthetist, but, above all, she was a catechist and evangelizer, rich in the wonderful resources of her faith, patience and fraternal love and she worked effectively for the emancipation of the Shuar women.

She worked untiringly for them and brought liberation they had never known, most notably in the innovation of marriage freely chosen rather than demanded by the families. She built hospitals to deal with the regular epidemics of measles and smallpox and trained the Shuar women as nurses. She established schools and worked for integration between indigenous and white people, no matter how they had been taught to hate each other.

At the age of 86, Maria Troncatti died *en route* to a spiritual retreat when the airplane she was in crashed at Sueña, Morona-Santiago, Ecuador, on August 25, 1969. Blessed Maria Troncatti is an example of generous fidelity to daily life and ordinary circumstances lived with so much of passion and sacrifice for the sake of souls and the spread of God's Kingdom notwithstanding the perils, the oppositions and the obstacles of every sort. Pope Benedict XVI declared Troncatti a Venerable in 2008 and a Blessed in 2012. This year we celebrate 50 years of her entry into heaven. The mission sector from Rome has sent the animation material which each community can use for the day's celebration which will be sent a little later prior to the feast.

Blessed Zefferino Namuncura – August 26



Zefferino Namuncurá was born on the 26th August 1886 at Chimpay, on the banks of the Rio Negro. When he was two years old, his father gave him to the Salesian priest, Father Dominic Milanese, telling him that he was giving this son, the future leader of his people, to be brought up in his religion. Zefferino was educated at the Salesian mission school in Buenos Aires. Zefferino was also growing in virtue and was often found in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The family spirit in the Salesian school brought him to love Don Bosco.

The way of life in his school captured young Zefferino and he grew steadily in his spiritual life. At the age of seventeen, he went into the seminary where he studied hard enough to become second in his class. Gradually he began to yearn to become a Salesian priest to evangelise his people. He chose Dominic Savio as a model, and over a period of five years, he himself imbibed the holy nature of the young saint and became another Dominic Savio by his exemplary life of piety, charity, faithfulness in his daily duty and for his self-sacrifice.

In 1903, he was accepted as an aspirant by Bishop Antonio Cagliero at the minor seminary at Viedma. There he organized a procession in honour of Our Lady of Mercy on 24 September 1903. Following the celebration, he contracted tuberculosis and was admitted in the hospital where he passed his time in a spirit of prayer mixed with patience, gratitude and obedience. On conditions of his poor health, he was sent to Italy and pursue his studies at Turin, however, his health conditions never improved. He was moved to Villa Sora, the Salesian Institute in Frascati near Rome, with the

hope that the change of climate would do good to his health. Even amidst his suffering, he always had a smile and kept his same gentle and patient spirit throughout.

This saintly seminarian died on the morning of May 11, at the age of eighteen, surrounded by several of the brothers who were praying for him. He was buried in Rome, but at the insistence of his people, his body was taken back to Patagonia in 1924 and buried at the Salesian school of Fortin Mercedes which becomes now a place of veneration for many pilgrims. He was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI in 1972 and on 11 November 2007 during the pontificate of Benedict XVI, he was beatified by Cardinal Tracisio Bertone in his own native place.

Communications

Canonical Visit: Our warmest and affectionate welcome home to Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the General visiting Councilor who will make her canonical visit to our Province. We have already started the one month preparation for her coming and let us intensify our prayers that we may be receptive to the graces of God coming to us through her visit. Sr. Lucy will arrive in the Province on 17 August 2019.



Animators Meeting: As was communicated earlier, all the animators are requested to reach the Auxilium Provincial house on 16 August 2019. They will have the meeting on 17th morning.

PCI: The Province of Shillong warmly welcomes all the participants of FMA India PCI. The sisters from the 6 Indian provinces will arrive at FMA-Outreach on 19 August 2019 and the meeting will conclude on 22 August 2019. We send ahead our prayers for the fruitfulness of the meeting.

AINACS Meeting: There will be the annual meeting of the AINACS from 28 August- 2 September 2019 in Mangalore. Sr. Joplin Suchiang and Sr. Hunbih Dkhar will participate in it. We wish our sisters all the best for the fruitfulness of the same.

Intensive Juniorate: Nine Juniors will begin their intensive Juniorate at Nongthymmai, Shillong on August 10th whereas the 2 Juniors who are going to Guwahati will begin their intensive Juniorate at Guwahati on August 13th along with the Juniors coming from the other Indian Provinces. We support our sisters with our prayers during this intensive time of religious formation.

Election of the Community Delegates for the Provincial Chapter: The ballot papers for the election of the Community Delegates and Substitute are already sent to communities having 5 or more members. Please send the minutes of the election latest by 16th August. Once we receive the names of the Community Delegates, the list of eligible members for the province Delegates will be sent to all the communities.

North East India Regional Pastoral Conference: The North East India Regional Pastoral Conference will be held at the Social Forum, Guwahati from 30 August to 1 September 2019 on the

theme “**Responsible youth leadership for a better Church and Society**”. I will be participating in it as a member of the Pastoral Conference.

Missionary Formation Course 2019: Two of our Sisters - Sr. Celina Maslai and Sr. Mildred Wahlang- will participate in the missionary formation course organized at Mathias Institute, Shillong from 1 September to 4 October 2019 including a 12 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang who has attended the missionary course earlier will also join the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We wish them a fruitful missionary experience and pilgrimage.

Congratulations

- ✚ We extend our affectionate congratulations and prayerful greetings to our dearest Mother General Sr. Yvonne Reungoat on her appointment by Pope Francis as one of the members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life on 8 July 2019 at the Vatican City. We are proud of this delicate mandate entrusted to our beloved Mother and we have the responsibility to support her with our prayers in this mission in the Church.
- ✚ Our warm greetings and congratulations to Fr. Anthony Kharkongor SDB and Fr. Michael Makri SDB of the Salesian Province of Shillong who were appointed by the Governor of Meghalaya on 27 June 2019 as official members of the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs of the Government of Meghalaya. We assure them of our prayers in this delicate mission among the youth in the society.
- ✚ Our warmest greetings to Sr. Celestina Thyrniang, Sr. Bergita Lyngkhai, Sr. Kyntiewlyne Kurbah and Sr. Lucia Syiem who passed out successfully at the Bachelor’s of Education (B.Ed) and bagging the different University ranks. Our heartiest congratulations also to Sr. Anita Dhar and Sr. Aquila Makri who completed successfully the M.Sc (Chemistry) and MA (English) from Auxilium College, Katpadi and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) respectively. We congratulate our dear sisters and wish them God’s blessings in all their endeavors and mission henceforth.
- ✚ Our heartiest congratulations to all our young sisters who have renewed their vows and those who made their final profession; our Novices who made their first profession and the Postulants who entered the novitiate. May they be blessed with greater fidelity in their journey of religious formation and educative mission of our Institute. While congratulating them, we also thank all the communities and formators who have journeyed and is journeying with them in rediscovering God’s Love and predilection in their religious life.
- ✚ *A special word of ‘Thank you’*
To the community of FMA Outreach for hosting the Second Novitiate Programme, the Postulants retreat and the Juniors Renewal programme during the month of July; to the Community of Sacred Heart- Mawlai and Mary Our Help – Bellefonte who hosted the Perpetual Profession and the First Profession respectively. May your generous involvement and sacrificing spirit be richly blessed by God. To all our communities who directly and indirectly gave their contribution in different ways to the celebrations, I express my sincere gratitude. May God bless you all.

Prayers and Condolences

Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies:

- ✚ To Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal FMA and the Sisters of Guwahati Province (ING) at the sad demise of Sr. Victoria Nunes FMA on 17 July 2019.

- ✚ To Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA and the Sisters of Kolkata Province (INC) at the passing away of Sr. Cecilia Tamba FMA on 20 July 2019
- ✚ To Fr. Matthew Joyce Thonikuzhiyil SDB and the Salesian Province of Bangalore at the loss of Fr. Thomas Kizakenellikunnel SDB on 7 July 2019.
- ✚ To Sr. Luigina Duia, Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw and Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhlet and their family members at the passing away of their cousins.

May the dear departed ones rest safe in the arms of Jesus and enjoy forever the beatific vision and may they intercede for the needs of their Provinces and loved ones.

For the Sick: We offer our prayers for all the sick members of our communities and families through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. We pray in a special way for:

- ✚ Sr. Bertina Kurbah who underwent surgery at Nazareth Hospital, Shillong.
- ✚ The father of Sr. Euginia Laloo
- ✚ The mother, aunt and uncle of Sr. Merciful Nongsiej
- ✚ The sister of Sr. Luigina Duia
- ✚ The sister of Sr. Rosa Mystica Myllemumlong
- ✚ The sister and nephew of Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoothil
- ✚ The brother of Sr. Ethelda Laoo
- ✚ The aunt of Sr. Kyntiewlyne Kurbah
- ✚ The nephew of Sr. Theodora Lyngdoh
- ✚ We remember in a singular way Fr. V. V. Paul SDB of the Salesian Province of Shillong who needs our special prayers and support in his pain and suffering at the moment. Lets us unite in prayers for God's powerful intervention of his healing if it is His holy will. We join the Salesian Province of Shillong to pray for his healing through the intercession of Bishop Marengo SDB.

Dear Sisters, I wish each of you a very ***HAPPY FEAST*** of the 5th of August. May the celebration of this great day be a time to renew our 'YES' to God and live it with greater fidelity and creativity. We are a congregation that belongs entirely to Mary and she is our Mother, Model and inspiration. As such we have the obligation to imitate her virtues. I conclude with an exhortation of Mother Yvonne: *...to be the memory of Mary with our life, our style of relationships, our prayerful attitude, the mission among the young generations, so that we can increasingly cultivate a rich interior life, solid in faith and in hope, strong in love, faithful to the heritage of our Founders*" (Cf. Circular No. 978)

Assuring you of my sisterly support and accompaniment!

Affectionately,



Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial

Happy Feast !

