



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

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01.11.2019

Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We have just concluded the XII Provincial Chapter in which 69 of us gathered like Mary and the Apostles at the Cenacle for discussions, evaluation, planning and discernment of future prospects for the Province. It was indeed a time of deep enrichment lived in a family spirit of joy, sisterly openness and total submissiveness to the Spirit. Though we lived the celebration amidst mixed emotions after the tragic and sudden demise of our beloved Archbishop Dominic Jala SDB, DD, the Archbishop of Shillong Archdiocese, yet the hand of God through the intervention of our Bishop was deeply felt and experienced. We were blessed with the abundance of God's graces to be able to carry on the scheduled plan smoothly and at the same time to take part at the reception of his mortal remains in the state and also to attend his funeral during those days. The capitulars took to serious and committed work even during the evening and night hours in order to catch up with the time table. There was much serenity and spirit of harmony in living the days of the Chapter.



The successful celebration of the Chapter was the fruit of the arduous and serious task carried out by every member of the Province in different phases of the preparation and the celebration. It was encouraging to see the positive atmosphere that pervaded everywhere during the days of the Chapter. The atmosphere was conducive to reflection, sharing and reliving of the Mornesian Spirit.

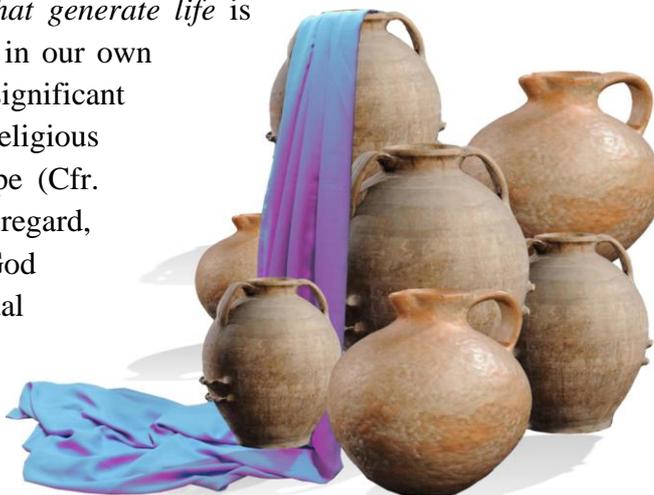
The Provincial Chapter concluded with the celebration of the Provincial Community Day. I place on record and express my gratitude to every member of the Province for the beautiful and meaningful

celebration we have had. Every one of us makes the Province. I appreciate the collaborative effort and family spirit that were tangibly seen during the celebration of the Chapter and the Community Day. It is a concrete sign of God's love and grace. Let us continue to live the Spirit of love and communion in our daily commitments that we may truly generate life to the world and the mission entrusted to our care.

The Provincial Chapter XII has ended. We have a dream for the future of our Province which will be unfolded gradually in the course of the coming 6 years. We move on now walking in synodality to proclaim the joy of the Gospel. We commit ourselves enthusiastically to become “*sowers of prophetic hope*” making our communities Generators of life. May Mary be present in every one of our communities so that we will never run short of the good wine – the wine of absolute trust in Jesus her son, the wine of fraternal love lived in community and with the young people, the wine of joy that will permeate all our educational ambience, the wine of generosity and missionary enthusiasm.

“...Communities that generate life...”

The invitation of GCXXIV to be *communities that generate life* is indeed a clarion call to everyone to generate life in our own capacity. Generativity connotes a broad and significant epitome of religious consecrated life today. Religious people are called to be Sowers of prophetic hope (Cfr. Mother General's Circular Letter No 985). In this regard, therefore, we are called to hope in the vision of God for the future, to journey together as Synodal communities, as consecrated women called to communion, called to follow Jesus, called to be a sacrament of God's presence in our world and in the contemporary society. The motivation to generate life should push us forward to assume



our role and specific identity in the Church and the society: to be joyful, to wake up the world with our prophetic witness, to be experts in communion and sharing, to move beyond our comfort zones and go out of ourselves to the reality that is existing around us, to the peripheries of humanity (geographical, spiritual, psychological and moral peripheries) especially to the circle of young people caught in a net of diverse crisis and complex reality.

In our Salesian context, generating life in its fullness has always been part of our spirituality through the ages. The life of our Salesian Saints, the daring and witnessing example of our missionaries and the fidelity of the members in the present times speak tangibly of the relevance to be generators of life at every age. The Salesian Charism has had since time immemorial a particular touch of Salesianity that never ceases to enrich and generate life. Very explicit examples can be drawn from the life of our Saints- our heroes and heroines who have paved the way before us in this regard.

Blessed Artemide Zatti whose feast we keep on **13 November** is a vivid example of a person who generated life in others through his exceptional and particular mission among the poor and sick

people especially in the hospital. Personal care and attention for the sick, a cheerful smile to the depressed, timely visits to the sick in the hospital and in the city, a word of encouragement, playing games and cracking a joke with them were some of his special traits that not only became physical medicine for the people but lifted up their spirits to God and to others. Thus he truly became not just a physical healer but an educator of faith and abandonment to God's will. Faithful to Don Bosco's motto "work and temperance", he showed a spirit of heroic sacrifice. Day and night, Zatti recognized the call of Christ in the groan of every sick person. He responded promptly and diligently to that love which invited him to give himself totally, in imitation of the Lord, who gave himself up to save humanity.

Another clear-cut witness of life generating spirit is *Blessed Magdalene Morano* whose feast we keep on **15 November**. Having spent her life in the mission land of Sicily, she witnessed the crying need of the girls and young women of the place. Her compassion for this poorer section of the society didn't stop with that, rather it expanded and grew to the extent of empowering their lives through educational institutions- schools, youth centers, hostels, and workshops all over the island.

Her power to generate life was seen even in the early years of her life when she supported and helped her mother to bring up her siblings after the untimely departure of her father. In spite of her great desire to enter religious life, she postponed her decisions just for the sole purpose of helping her family- a tangible sign of a life generating soul. Her life bore a mark of authentic spirituality that was deep, centered and rooted in God and that showed itself outwardly in her overwhelming service to others in the world through her creative fidelity, dynamic initiatives and untiring self giving.

Yet another outstanding soul and archetype who generated life to the full is *Mamma Margret* whose feast we commemorate on **25 November**. Mamma Margaret not only brought into the world the great generator of life - Don Bosco but she herself generated life to many souls in the whole Salesian Family. The love of the Lord was so strong in her that it gave her a mother's heart. She was a wise teacher who knew to combine fatherliness and motherliness, kindness and firmness with her sons in the family and the same with the boys at the oratory of Don Bosco.

She spent every bit of her life for God and others. The concern to save souls was not just of her son but also hers. In fact she willingly went to help Don Bosco at the oratory with the sole motive of gaining the young people's souls for God. Her life was so unified with God and with the mission of Don Bosco that she became a significant contributor of the Preventive System.

The example of our Saints in generating fruitful life in the Church, the Society and especially in our Salesian world is great inspiration for us. In our very own times, the question of being generators of life is still a pertinent matter that calls for greater attention. GCXXIV invites us to live and resonate this essence in our contemporary context. To respond concretely to this invitation, it is profitable to ask ourselves:

- *In what measure can I/ our communities generate life?*
- *What could be the signs that I/ we generate life in the context of our contemporary world?*

We have lots of potentiality within, which can further generate life in its fullness. As people consecrated to bring life to the world, we are constantly being invited to make life blossom in our daily life, to witness and to live the charism of our founders in creative fidelity. In this way, we can truly be generators of life and authentic prophets of joy as Pope Francis would say in *Evangelii Gaudium*.

All saints Day



The feast of *All Saints* is very dear and significant to the Church. In celebrating this great solemnity, as Christians we are reminded that holiness is letting the beauty of Jesus emerge in us, the beauty that was given to us in Baptism. It is a celebration of the communion of saints who are united among themselves in the name of Christ. The Church celebrates this day not just for those who are proclaimed saints through canonization, but also of those who loved Christ in their lives and who were moved by the Holy Spirit. It is apt to think of our grandparents, our deceased mothers and fathers who worked with love to make us grow in life and in faith; to recall the life of fidelity and witness, the gigantic mission and commendable works accomplished by our founders, our missionaries and our deceased sisters who have really toiled hard to bring the message of God's love to the world and to our land.

Throughout the ages these Saints have, in their variety and uniqueness proved that a different world is possible - a world of love, of justice, of forgiveness inspite of sufferings, misunderstandings, obstacles of every sort. Saints were ordinary persons as we are. They tell us that they were just as weak and sinful as we are. Yet it was their collaboration with God's intervention and grace, God's love and power that saved them. Today, we too are saints in the making. We all have this common goal, this common vision of becoming Saints just like the saints in Paradise. This solemnity reminds us as believers and followers of Christ that we have the great responsibility of becoming the announcers and missionaries of God's love in the world. Our sanctity should not be thought of as something static but essentially dynamic and missionary. In the Saints, we have great intercessors in Heaven who will lend us help and support in our sojourn on earth, in our journey of faith especially in walking together with love, between people, to bring Christ so that everyone can meet him, love him and thus be redeemed by His sanctifying grace.

All Souls' Day

The memory of the dead is a great celebration of faith in the resurrection and in eternal life; it is a rekindling of hope, contemplating that goal towards which we are all headed. The assurance of the resurrection is based on the resurrection of Christ as St. Paul said "*We believe that Jesus died and*

rose again; so also those who died, God will gather them together with him through Jesus " (1 Thess 4: 13-14). Precisely because Christ is risen, we have the hope of rising again. By rising from the dead, Jesus opened the door for us to immortal life. We celebrate this day as a day of great hope, a day of victory, and not of tears, because Christ has conquered death.



In this month, the visit to the cemeteries as well as the participation in the funerals of family members, relatives, friends, is always a good opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life and death, of time and of eternity. There we perform and offer acts of faith, hope and charity and there we profess our very own faith. In commemorating this day, as Christians we make a vivid memory of Christ's Resurrection, a sign of his faithful love for the men and women whom the Father has entrusted to him. We also remember the charity of those who loved us and who now await help from us: the help of our prayers and of our fidelity to Jesus.

The Church invites us on this day to be more united in prayers for all the souls departed so that more and more people will be brought closer to salvation and that all of us who continue the earthly journey be brought ever closer to heaven, the destination that we are all looking forward to.

Solemnity of Christ the King



We are drawing close to the end of the Liturgical year with the celebration of the solemnity of Christ the King on 24 November this year. Year after year we celebrate the feast of the Kingship of Christ and in Sacred Scripture too we meet with frequent references to Christ's Kingship. The invitation of the Solemnity of Christ the King is to belong to Jesus entirely. Belongingness to Jesus does not cut us off from belonging to others but gives direction to that belonging.

On the feast of Christ the King, we are called to acknowledge that Jesus is in fact our King. Let us profess our faith in Jesus and affirm our loyalty to Him as our King and Lord. Let us pray for the advent of His Kingdom - a Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Love.

Communications

Congratulations: We congratulate Sr. Celine D'Cunha and Sr. Rosa Pyngrope who were elected Delegate and Substitute to GCXXIV respectively on 24 October 2019. We wish God's blessings, prayerful support and all the best in this important mandate.

Rector Major's Visit: The Province was blessed to have the presence of our beloved Rector Major in the person of Don Ángel Fernández Artime SDB on 30 October 2019 at Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai. The moments together were short yet very precious especially with his beautiful message to all who were present. Rector Major invited everyone to be courageous women

endowed with profound faith, creative fidelity to our Founders and experts in living fraternity in the communities. Our Sisters at Bishramganj and Nandan Nagar also had the joy of welcoming our Rector Major in their communities on 27 and 28 October respectively. We thank our beloved Rector Major for his memorable visit to our communities and we express gratitude to Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB, Salesian Provincial of Shillong and his Council for making the necessary arrangements for the visit of Rector Major to our communities during his visit to the Salesian Province of Shillong.

Welcome: We warmly welcome Sr. Kim Yong Ne (Sr. Bonina) who arrives today 1st of November 2019 from the Korean Province. She will spend one year with us and will be accommodated at Sacred Heart Convent, Mawlai. We wish her a happy stay with us.

Conclusion of the Canonical Visit: The last meetings for the conclusion of the canonical visit of Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, General Visiting Councilor will be from 18 – 22 November 2019. Please take note of the dates for the different groups as indicated in the programme. As communicated earlier, all the members of the Provincial Team are requested to join in the 2nd group i.e: on 20 November. The Animators' meeting with Sr. Lucy will be on the morning of 22 November and in the afternoon (2-4 pm), I will have a short meeting with them.

Training on Children's Parliament: On 4-6 November 2019, there will be training of facilitators of the Children's Parliament organized by the NGO PRATYeK/ NINEISMINE, New Delhi at St. Edmund's School, Shillong. Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang, Sr. Igina Kharjana, Sr. Ester Suting, Sr. Rona Kharkongor and Sr. Pdianghun Suja will participate in this training. We wish them a wonderful experience that will bear fruitful outcome for the mission of our Province.

National Seminar on Education: The 11th National Seminar on Education for School Principals and educational administrators will be held at Don Bosco Institute DBI- Guwahati, Assam from 8-10 November 2019 with the theme "*The power of Design Thinking and Mindful Living*". We wish the following sisters who will participate a fruitful and enriching experience.

- Sr. Anita Dhar
- Sr. Bashisha Massar
- Sr. Bergita Lyngkhoi
- Sr. Makriana Marwein
- Sr. Teilanda Syngkon

Training on Evangelization: There will be training on Evangelization from 23-25 November 2019 at the Social Forum, Guwahati. Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, Sr. Meristella Jyrwa, Sr. Mary Concepta Pasi, Sr. Tistabha Bareh and Sr. Banteisha Warshong will participate from our Province. We wish them all the best and an inspiring encounter in the mission.

Delegate Salesian Family: Sr. Mary Lamare will replace Sr. Theresa Phawa as the National Delegate for the Salesian Family and Delegate of the Past pupils in the Province. We wish her a fruitful mission.

Remembering the departed

Archbishop Dominic Jala SDB, DD: The sudden and shocking news of the tragic demise of our beloved Archbishop Dominic at California on 10 October 2019 has taken us aback with a sense of deep sorrow and great loss. We were expecting him to be with us during the celebration of our XII Provincial Chapter but God's ways are mysterious to comprehend. We thank him for his countless guidance and support in our mission in the past. We surrender now his soul to the loving arms of Jesus and pray that he may enjoy forever the eternal peace of Paradise. We bow to God's inscrutable plans that our faith may be strengthened and may our beloved Pastor continue to intercede powerfully from Heaven now for the Church and for our mission.

We also pray for the departed soul of Fr. Matthew Vellankal who lost his life in the same fatal accident with Archbishop Dominic.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers:

- To Sr. Bertina Kurbah who lost her brother and Sr. Estelle Rani who lost her nephew on this day 1 of November 2019.
- To Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA and the FMA Province of Chennai (INM) at the departure of Sr. Antonia Rayappan FMA on 8 October 2019.
- To Fr. Provincial and Province of Chennai INM at the demise of Fr. Martin Sowriappan SDB on 22 October 2019.

May the dear departed ones rest in peace forever and may they intercede for the needs of the families, Provinces and the Church.

Dear Sisters, the Liturgy of these days remind us of what we profess and proclaim every time we recite the Creed. *I believe...* in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting. The Church remembers and prays for the departed souls daily, but during this month we are reminded to offer special suffrages to speed up the entry into Heaven of those souls who are suffering in purgatory. Let us be generous with our prayers and sacrifices and liberate many souls who are in purgatory, awaiting the mercy of God.

Assuring you of my sisterly support and accompaniment!

Affectionately,



Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial