



# Provincial Circular

## Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/24/2020

04.08.2020

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We are on the eve of the day very dear to every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, the 5<sup>th</sup> of August – the Foundation day of our Institute. The commemoration of this great day solemnized through the professions, jubilee celebrations and other events that take us back to the humble beginnings at Mornese, recounts today the fidelity of God throughout history and fills us with hope to relive and prolong the Salesian Charism to the future. It is indeed a day of love, of communion and fidelity, a day to recall God's story of love and the covenant He made with Mother Mazzarello and with each of us. On this day we remember with love and thankfulness the gift of many missionaries who spent their lives to be "bearers of God's love" and "collaborators" in realizing the dreams of God and the spirit of our Founders. A day like this reminds us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of our task and responsibility to revive continually the gift of our Salesian vocation that we have received, to keep fresh the newness of God's singular gift. We are invited to live with conviction the charism of our Founders and as inheritors of the great legacy make present the glorious past and perpetuate it with more creativity in our mission.



## "I entrust them to you"

In each of us is imprinted the vocation to be "*the living monument*" of Don Bosco's gratitude to his Madonna. This yearly event and celebration of God's fidelity is an occasion to remind ourselves of our call to be '*the living monuments*', a moment to unite in communion with each sister in our Institute that together we continue to live the loving designs of God and the dream of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. This year we enter into the second year of our preparation for the 150 years of the foundation of our Institute. In her Circular 1000 Mother General has officially announced the opening of this year of preparation with the theme "***I entrust them to you***" inviting every member of the FMA Family to live with audacity, welcoming Spirit and commitment this mandate of God to Mother Mazzarello. To quote Mother's words "*The aim of the celebrations of the 150th is not only to evoke the past, but to celebrate the present, giving new brightness to a mandate that goes beyond time and space, and puts into play all our resources, our educative evangelizing passion, our will to look to the future with the daring of Don Bosco and of Mother Mazzarello. This is why I invite you to*

*approach her figure with new depth, to penetrate more into that “I entrust them to you” which was the guiding thread of her life and that challenges ours as well.” [cf. Mother General Circular 1000]*

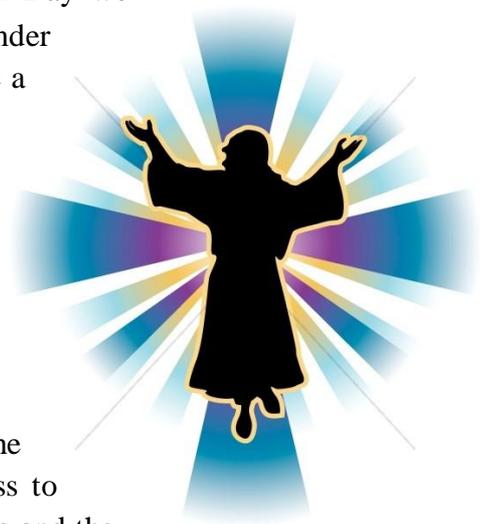
Mother Mazzarello on her part cooperated so well in this loving mandate of God with creativity and fidelity that gave life, vitality and significance to our Charism in the Institute. Following her footsteps we are invited to ask ourselves too in what ways we use the God-given talents and gifts of grace to be fitting instruments in His hands and to keep alive the Charism in our days. Let us pray for each other that we will know how to preserve with faith the precious gift of our vocation and to be luminous beacons for those who sail the sea of life especially the young people

As FMA India, we are also entering the second year of preparation for the centenary celebration. The theme chosen for this year (2020-21) goes in line with that of the Institute: *Accept the mandate: “I entrust them to you.” Reviving the Family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion* with the practise *‘Interiorizing and living the profile of the FMA’*. The suggested study material for this year’s reflection is the *Diamond Years Volume 2*. Let us live in communion with all our Sisters in India replicating the attitudes of an FMA as outlined in the profile of our Constitutions and let us strive to live community communion which is an indispensable element of our religious call - the spiritual bond of communion of hearts united in Christ and rooted in Faith, Hope and Charity. [cf. Const Art. 49, §5].

## *Transfiguration of our Lord*

It is very apt that just after the celebration of our Foundation Day we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, a reminder that by our very vocation, we are called to follow Jesus and live a witnessing life with a transfigured existence that will enable us to live our life and mission in fidelity and true communion.

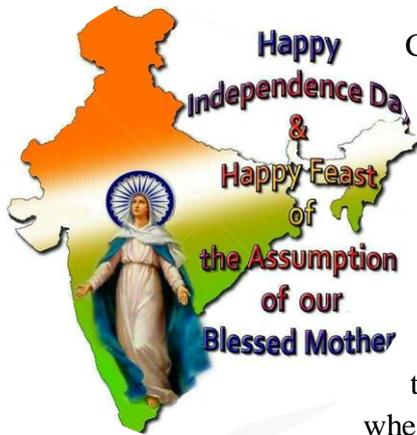
In the Transfiguration, the humanity and divinity of Jesus are both revealed. Just as the divinity of Jesus transfigures his humanity; our life too in the light of faith is a transfiguration in which the power of God shines forth in our poor humanity to the world. St. John Paul II once said that this is particularly true of the consecrated life. A consecrated person is called to make visible the marvels wrought by God in the frail humanity by bearing witness to these marvels, not so much in word but by the example of our lives and the transfiguration of our attitudes to those of Christ. As we begin anew with the transfigured Christ after the renewal of our covenant with God, let us make our communities privileged places to live our ‘YES’ to the Lord in the same attitude of the ‘FIAT’ of our Blessed Mother and ‘*Thy will be done*’ of Jesus.



## *Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Independence Day*

August 15 is a very significant day for all of us when we celebrate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into heaven and the Independence Day of India which remind us of the one great reality of freedom- freedom from sin and freedom from human slavery. Mary stands before us

as a great example of one who is free from sin and who preserved the grace of purity. God has done marvels in the life of our Blessed Mother and she in turn led others to recognize God's holiness. Mary was closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life on earth, that she merited to be glorified with him body and soul in Heaven. As the mediator between God and people, she plays a special role of interceding with God on behalf of human beings.



Celebrating the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of India's Independence gives us an opportunity to rejoice with gratitude the freedom we enjoy while at the same time pay tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives to make our country a free nation. Though free from a foreign domination, our country still needs to be free from many oppressive clutches, such as poverty, ignorance, unemployment, discrimination and the like. Celebrating true freedom invites us to choose to follow the higher principles of our Creator and receive the redemptive grace granted to us through Christ. In this moment when the world and our country are fighting the battle of Covid-19,

when the Nation faces newer challenges we are all the more reminded of the spirit of true fraternity and solidarity. While we rejoice and seek God's blessings upon ourselves and our country, may the great event of the Assumption and the Independence Day contribute to the bonding of minds and hearts leading to further strengthening the spirit of love and communion.

### *The saintly fruits of Salesian Education*

Way back in 1988, to mark the centenary of Don Bosco's death, Pope John Paul II wrote a letter to the Salesians extolling the unique contribution of St John Bosco to the lives of young people throughout the world particularly in the field of education, through his educational method the "Preventive System." He urged the Salesians to rediscover, renew and update the understanding of this innovative approach, the substance of which remains intact because it draws its inspiration "from the transcendent pedagogy of God". True to this statement of the holy Pontiff, over the centuries we have seen and witnessed that the educational system of Don Bosco has proven to be a successful model and inspiration for educators on different continents, in multicultural and multi-religious contexts. The Salesian Saints that we celebrate in this month are perfect examples of how true the Salesian Charism pushes a person towards sanctity notwithstanding the age, the situation and the geographical context.



**Blessed Augustus Czarторыski** whose feast we celebrate on August 2 is an example of a great lover of the *Da Mihi Animas* who made himself poor in order to serve the needy young people. Pursuing a deeper spiritual life was in fact a passion for young Augustus. Despite his status as the eldest son of Prince Ladislaus, despite his father's worldly ambitions for him and despite the social and diplomatic circles that the family inhabited, he chose to follow the Lord in the Salesian style of a life in pursuit of sanctity.

**Blessed Maria Troncatti** was a Salesian to the core in words and deeds and she was true to her identity of a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. Her ardent desire was always to save souls and to lead them to God as did Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. She was a "doctor" for the body and the spirit. She was above all a catechist and an evangelizer of God's love, rich in wonderful resources of faith, patience and fraternal love. Her work for the promotion of the Shuar women is a tangible sign of her passion for souls and her ardent love for God and neighbour. Her feast is celebrated on 25 August.



A young saint like **Blessed Zefferino Namuncura** whose feast we celebrate on August 26 proves that the Salesian system of education is worth living and ever new to lead people to God and God to people. In spite of his young age Zefferino's influence on those he met was great. Among his peers Zefferino was a perfect model and he always encouraged his friends with his exemplary behaviour. As Don Bosco would have wished, he was exact in fulfilling his duties of study and prayer. He was praiseworthy for his piety, charity, faithfulness to daily duty and self-sacrifice. His conviction to follow the teachings of Don Bosco in the ordinary circumstances of life won for him Heaven even at a very tender age.

## *Communications*

**Intensive Juniorate:** Due to the existing situation of Covid-19, there is reshuffling of the Sisters who will pursue their one year of Intensive Juniorate this year. The Sisters who were supposed to attend the ITLR course at Mawlai will now join the Juniorate course at Auxilium, Nongthymmai.

Only Sr. Matilda Klein will be able to go to Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. Sr. Evangelica Suja will join the Nongthymmai group due to the impediment of inter-state travel. We believe this time of inconvenience will keep us more in solidarity with the suffering people and increase our sense of belonging and flexibility to adapt to the situations of the time. May the Lord bless our Sisters in this year of intensive preparation and formation in their religious life. Sr. Selinda Wanniang will accompany the intensive juniorate Sisters as the Assistant.

**Mission Experience:** We wish Sr. Bontila Makdoh God's blessings as she will render her service in the Province of Kolkata initially for a period of three years. We thank her for her availability to share God's love with His people through this missionary generosity. She will leave for Kolkata as soon as the situation becomes conducive for the journey. The missionary call 'Ad Gentes' is open to anyone who feels the call.

**GEM Mobile Application:** I would like to communicate that Sr. Jenney Iawphñiaw and Sr. Ibaniewkor Warjri, as part of the research work in their curriculum of study of BCA, have successfully come out with a mobile application "**GEM**" (in English and Khasi) based on the Document *Guidelines for the Educational Mission of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians-That They May Have Life and Have It to the Full*. We congratulate the efforts, hard work

and interest of our 2 sisters to bring out this application which will reach out more expansively to many people especially those involved in youth ministry. The official launching of the application will be done on 6 August 2020 at Auxilium, Nongthymmai. You can download the application on this link below:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=shillong.jenneyiba.gem>

**Formators' Meeting:** There will be an online Formators' meeting organized by the National sector of PCI for formation from 24-28 August 2020. The objective of the meeting is to reflect and share the insights regarding the proposed plans that came up at the PCI meeting held last year. The participants will be the formators and assistants of all stages of initial and ongoing formation. Those who will attend the meeting will be given further information on the same. I request all the sisters interested in the field to kindly make time for this important meeting.

### *Congratulations*

**Fidelity to the Covenant of Love:** Once again we congratulate all our Sisters who celebrate the different jubilee of their religious profession this year. We thank them for their life of total dedication and loving service to God in the Institute. May the Lord continue to walk with them in their journey of fidelity. We also express our joy, happiness and prayerful wishes for our sisters who will make the final profession, the first profession and those who will enter the Novitiate. May their generous 'YES' be richly blessed by God in their life and mission [*Please refer to July Circular no.CIR/EG/INS/24/2020for their names*]

**Academic Results:** We congratulate all our Sisters, teachers and students of our different schools who have fared well in the various public examinations of CBSE and State Boards at all levels. Kudos! for the painstaking endeavours of our sisters and their collaborators in the school to groom the integral education of our young people in all these years. May your efforts be rewarded by God and may our mission continue to soar high proclaiming God's love to everyone.

### *A special word of 'Thank you'*

**I** express my heartfelt gratitude to all the community animators who have facilitated the various retreats of our Sisters in the different communities during this past month and these first days of August. Though we were far physically but the communion of hearts was felt in prayer and remembrance. I thank in particular the communities who hosted the celebration for the renewal of profession of our young sisters during these days. My gratitude to Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Sr. Luigina Duia, Sr. Manoda Sangma, Sr. Sylvestra Khonglah, Sr. Marcellina Sangma, Sr. Phyllis Bamon and Sr. Entilia Nongkynrih who consented to receive the vows of our Sisters. God bless you abundantly. I thank all the retreat preachers in the various regions for their availability and thoughtfulness to animate and share God's Love with our Sisters through the sharing of the Word of God and the celebration of the Holy Sacraments. May the Lord reward and bless you copiously.

### *Prayers for the sick and the departed*

**W**e extend our prayerful support to all the sick members of our communities and families through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. We pray especially for all those who are

being affected by COVID-19 particularly priests, religious and members of the Salesian Family.

We offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all those who lost their dear ones in the past month.

- Sr. Hilda Barragan at the passing away of her brother of on 28 June
- Sr. Kanrisha Thangkhiew who lost her maternal uncle 5 July
- Sr. Meldaris Syiemlieh at the demise of her maternal Grandmother of 7 July
- Sr. Hunda Marwein at the departure of her paternal uncle on 10 July
- Sr. Juborlin Lyngkhoi at the passing away of her paternal aunt of 11 July
- Sr. Janicia Nongrum at the loss of her paternal aunt of 14 July
- Sr. Kmenlang Pasi at the demise of her maternal uncle 21 July
- Sr. Merciful Nongsiej who lost her paternal uncle of on 23 July
- Sr. Gemima Pohrmen at the passing away of her cousin sister on 2 August
- Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB, Provincial of INC and the Salesians of Kolkata at the passing away of Fr. Mathew Manianchira SDB on 17 July, Fr. Jose Aymanathil SDB on 19 July Fr. Thomas KanjirathumkaL (KA Thomas) SDB on 3 August
- Sr. Nirmala Lazar, Provincial of INM and the Sisters of Chennai at the passing away of Sr. Victorina Gnanapragasam on 21 July
- Fr. Jose Kuruvachira SDB, Provincial of IND and the Salesians of Dimapur at the demise of Fr. Joseph Kaippallimyalil SDB on 27 July

May the departed ones enjoy forever the eternal Peace of Heaven and may all those who mourn their passing away be consoled by the strength and grace of God.

### *Renewed in Love*

**W**e are in the time of transfers when some of you are called to take up your assignments in another community. I thank each one of you for your availability as you move to the new communities with renewed enthusiasm and fresh dynamism for the mission. At this juncture, when we are making a new beginning in the new or old community, I am reminded of the Scripture passage from Romans 12:3-8, where St. Paul compares the members of the community to the parts of our body. As each part of the body performs a different function, each member of the community is entrusted with a different responsibility, each one making her unique contribution to the building up of the Community. The exhortations of St. Paul to the early Christians: “Let Love be genuine, hold fast to what is good, love one another with brotherly(sisterly) affection, be eager to show respect for one another” [Rom.12:9-10] are like spiritual capsules that will make our communities witnessing presences, rooted in faith, hope and charity



As we celebrate the day when we renew our love and fidelity to God in the service of young people as Salesian educators, I wish each of you dear Sisters a very Happy Feast. May the Lord sustain us in our desire to follow Him with total dedication. May the occasion of pronouncing the first ‘YES’ to

God or the anniversary of the same rekindle the fire of love and passion within us as we journey ahead on the path of sanctity. I conclude with the words of our Saintly Mother Mazzarello as an exhortation for all of us *“Now is the best time to rekindle the fire...we must stir up our fervor so that we will remain fervent until death”* [L.27, 8]



*“Continue to love me in the future by the exact observance of your Constitutions” – Don Bosco*

**A very Happy Feast to one and all!**

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,  
Affectionately,

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