



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/25/2020

02.09.2020

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We are beginning the new month of September in the middle of the Novena in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother which we will celebrate on 8 September. The birth of Mary is the sign that God has prepared salvation for us and for humanity from all eternity. He prepared her an immaculate body and soul to be the worthy Mother of Jesus His Son and also to be our Mother! It is very suitable to compare the life of our Blessed Mother to the one of whom St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: *“He decided beforehand who were the ones destined to be moulded to the pattern of his Son, so that he should be the eldest of many brothers”* (Rm.8:29). And this is especially true of the Blessed Virgin Mary, predestined to conform to the image of the Son of God.



Mary is the mediatrix right from her inception to bring forth God's salvation into the world. Celebrating her nativity reminds us that we too are called in certain and different ways to be the mediators of God's plan of salvation in our own days. By looking at her, we learn to let Christ enter our personal and community history so that through us He makes the history of salvation for the today in which we live. Through Mary, God entered the world in spite of certain hindrances caused by human frailties and sins. Our reality today too, especially in this moment of the Covid-19 is characterized by many uncertainties marked by many difficulties. However, the Lord who entered our history through Mary enters today too in our realities, through her who shows us her Son Jesus and tells us as she told the servants at Cana "Do whatever He tells you".



On 15 September we also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, another occasion that reminds us of the powerful presence of our Blessed Mother in the history of salvation through her faithful accompaniment of Jesus until the Cross. Like her son Jesus, she too bore much suffering. According to tradition, Mary suffered seven sorrows in her life. The passion of Christ deeply wounded her immaculate heart, because she loved her son more than herself. She not only bore the pain of her son but also united with him in accepting the will of His Father, to give new life to human beings. This reveals how profound her compassion is for her son Jesus and for each one of us her children. Her compassion is filled with faith, love, and hope in God. Looking up to Mary, as Christians and religious we are encouraged to

embrace our daily crosses with hope and to witness our love for God and our neighbors in bringing God's kingdom of love, peace, joy and justice amidst hatred, conflicts, violence, depression, sadness, injustice, self-centeredness and uncertainties of our present world.

While honoring our Blessed Mother, let us give thanks for her maternal care and protection, for her love that goes beyond human comprehension. In her we see a Mother who cares and protects us in our journeys of life, through all changes and upheavals; a Mother who acts in solidarity with those who are in any kind of need. We cannot honour her without following her example and imbibing her virtues in life. As we enter the threshold of this month in her company, let us ask her help that we may be docile to God's will to cooperate in His plan of salvation, to be carers and protectors of those who are entrusted to us and to be faithful to her Son Jesus in our journey of fidelity as exemplified in her faithful discipleship to Jesus from the moment of the Annunciation till His death on the Cross. May Mary who is the model par excellence of faith, hope and love intercede for us and make us instruments of grace and blessing.

Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata is a symbol of genuine charity. The innocence of her life marked by incessant prayer and great corporal and spiritual works of mercy is a clear mirror of God's love and a wonderful example of service to one's neighbor, especially to the poorest and abandoned. Her life is a clear indication for everyone of the preciousness of belonging to the Lord. She gives the stimulus to live as good disciples of the Lord and let ourselves be inflamed by the fire of Christ's love. In her we discover that cheerful and inseparable combination of the heroic exercise of charity and courage in the proclamation of the truth.



The whole life and work of Mother Teresa bear witness to the joy of loving and the value of the little things done with much love. Her humility allowed her to be an icon to the world of the virtue of Charity. She always made constant invitation to the practice of this heroic virtue as she once said: *“Humility is the mother of all virtues: purity, charity and obedience. It is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted and ardent. If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. If you are blamed you will not be discouraged. If they call you a saint you will not put yourself on a pedestal.”* As we celebrate her feast on 5 September, let us remind ourselves that it is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted and ardent.

Blessed María Carmen Moreno and María Amparo Carbonell

On 22 September we celebrate the feast of the proto martyrs of our Institute ***Blessed María Carmen Moreno and María Amparo Carbonell***. In 1936, just at the outbreak of the Spanish civil war, Sister Carmen and Sister Amparo came to live together in the same community. Within the wrench of death due to the war, stood out the eloquent testimony of these two spiritual daughters of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. In robust faith and generous self gift, they remain on in the city to take care of a terminally ill sister, though they could have chosen otherwise to flee the city stricken with intolerable religious persecutions. The consequence of their generous and sublime

suffering was an undesirable yet meritorious martyrdom in the hands of the persecutors. Sr. Carmen and Sr. Amparo became outstanding and heroic signs for every age of the power of love and selflessness in the midst of violence and hate.



The life of Sister Carmen Moreno and Sister Amparo Carbonell was very simple, but distinct by the generosity and promptness of assuming the commitment to respond to what God asked of them on a daily basis, forgetting themselves and attentive to the needs of the neighbor which manifest so tangibly their heroic act of solidarity. Their life is an invitation for all of us to stand firm in our conviction and in our faith in the Resurrected Christ;

to continue the mission of Jesus as we minister in various ways in the midst of the challenges of the reality in which we find ourselves. May the courageous faith of these two faithful Daughters of Mary Help of Christians be an inspiration for us today.

Salute to all the Teachers

On September 5 we remember with love and gratitude all our teachers and we salute them for their courage and audacity to shape humanity with their generous and selfless service. The role of the Parents and Teachers is complementary. Therefore it is said: “*Parents are the teachers at home and teachers are the parents at school*”. They teach us the wisdom in doing things right. They give moral support and encourage us to live in this society and treat everyone equally. They teach us the importance of life and show us the right track to ensure that our life is successful. Teachers throughout all time have the great task of mentoring the future of society in all spheres.

On this day of gratitude, we owe our gratefulness to our Parents who were our first teachers, our past Teachers and Formators, in a very special way to all our Sisters who are engaged in the school ministry, to all the teachers and all those who are dedicating their lives for the betterment of human lives and the society. We appreciate them in a very particular way during this time of the pandemic for their unstinting efforts to reach out to the students through social media and other means. The interest to go beyond is a sign of a heart full of love, of passion and dedication to sow the seed of knowledge in the hearts of all notwithstanding the barriers caused by Covid-19.

A good
TEACHER
is like a candle -
it **CONSUMES** itself
to give others
LIGHT

As we celebrate this day of gratitude for all the teachers, we are also reminded of our great duty and responsibility as Salesian educators to understand that apart from teaching or imparting knowledge, values and work skills, education involves a deep, personal rapport between us and those under our care with a mature sense of discernment and moral responsibility. We seek the intercession of Don Bosco, a pertinent example of an authentic educator that we may walk the talk in our educative mission and that we ourselves may live with conviction the implications of the Preventive System of Don Bosco.

On this day dedicated to the teachers, we also extend our heartiest Congratulations to Sr. Maria Swer who is selected to receive the District level award for the year 2020.

Girl Child day

On the birthday of our Blessed Mother (8 September) we also remember the day dedicated to the Girl Child. Today, much of the violence inflicted on women is because of the low status and low image of women in society. More than two thousand years ago, God chose a simple, ordinary woman from an unknown village in Nazareth and made her blessed among women. When the face of the girl child is distorted in many ways in the world today, our society needs to look at Mary to raise the image of the girl child and the status of women.



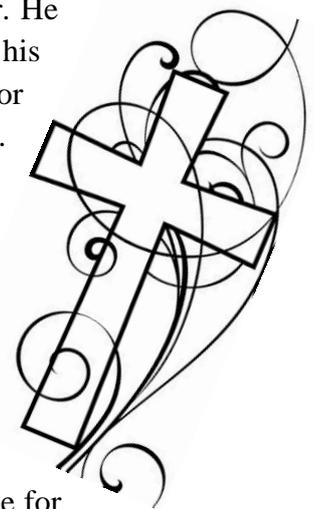
In Mary, we find an initiator at the wedding feast of Cana, who in spite of Jesus' refusal tells the servants to do whatever He tells. Mary was a woman of courage. The "YES" said by her at the Annunciation required tremendous courage that had to go against Jewish tradition. Again during the Passion when the apostles disappeared from the scene, Mary remained courageous till the end at the crucifixion. Mary was a leader. Even after the death of

Jesus when the apostles were still scared and fearful, Mary was there. Let us ask Mary to intercede for our society that it will begin to see the girl child with equal dignity; as one created by God in his own image and likeness as all human beings are and that society will end the atrocities committed against the girl child.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The feast of the exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September reminds us again that the Cross of Jesus was salvation for many. In front of the Holy Cross of our crucified Lord we are invited to reflect : On which side are we? On the side of mercy that is saved through the passion and death or on the side of unjust violence that condemns and kills?

Jesus nailed to the cross shows us vividly the unconditional love of the Father. He does not escape the cross. He knows that this is the will of the Father who loves his children and does not abandon them in the moment of trial and suffering. For Jesus the cross is not condemnation for wickedness or sins committed by him. He did only good, he preached love, forgiveness, he called blessed the poor, the meek, the non-violent, the peacemakers. He always preached conversion and invited us to abandon the way of evil, He showed the things of heaven and the kingdom of God, He taught not to trust in things or wealth, to love God and neighbor. He taught that there is no religion and love for God if one does not love one's neighbor. He showed us the face of a God who is a father, even when we as His children turn away from him.



Looking at the Holy Cross we can say : there is hope for our world, there is hope for everyone. God in Jesus manifests himself as the creator and Savior who does not abandon His own and who wants all to be saved. We gain strength and courage in celebrating this feast knowing that

on the Cross of Jesus is our salvation and when our little daily crosses are heavy we are not alone in carrying them but God walks alongside with us.

Feast of the Archangels

The Church celebrates the feast of the Archangels – Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on 29 September. Each of these archangels performs a different mission in Scripture: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides. The Church traditions teach us that the Angels are spiritual beings who live for God and enjoy his glory, and who at the same time are constantly by our side to help us be totally God's.

As we celebrate this feast, let us turn to our Angels to help us in our daily sojourn on earth with the prayer of Pope Francis:

“Michael, help us in the fight; everyone knows what struggle they have in their life today. Each of us knows the main struggle, the one that risks salvation. Help us.

Gabriel, bring us news, bring us the Good News of salvation, that Jesus is with us, that Jesus has saved us and give us hope.

Raphael, take us by the hand and help us along the way so as not to take the wrong path, not to remain still. ”



Communications

FMA-India Formators' Meet: From 24-28 August 2020, the PCI Formation Team had 5 days Zoom meeting to reflect and share insights regarding the action plans proposed during the FMA PCI 2019. The topics dealt with during the meeting were:

- Formation of Formators: to learn more together about contextualized formation, and accompaniment of the formees,
- Animating Formators' meeting at the National level to formulate itinerary for ongoing Formation, Formulating the itinerary for the community to accompany the Junior Sisters,
- In-depth study of the Guidelines for the Formation Period of Temporary Vows and inculturation of the same.

Sr. Tamizharasi Kanicraj, the National Coordinator for Formation, tactfully and efficiently initiated the meeting with a three day sharing on *“Psychology of relationships”*. The rest of the days were spent on discussion and sharing on the itinerary of the initial formation and suggestions for the ongoing formation as lived and shared in the different Indian Provinces based on the document **‘Guidelines for the Formation Period of Temporary Vows’**. Sr.Rita Dora, INB Provincial & PCI Vice President, Sr. Michael Cruz of Trichy Province and Sr. Philomena D’Souza of Mumbai also came up with enlightening sharing on the *‘Guidelines for Itinerary of on-going formation, Itinerary for the community to accompany the Junior Sisters’* and *‘Guidelines for inculturating the document’* respectively. The group was fortunate to get a message also from Sr. Nieves Reboso, General

Councilor for formation and Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, General Visiting Councilor at the beginning and end of the meeting.

21 Sisters of our Province participated in the meeting. The Province gave a thought that it is worth sharing the experiences of the meeting with all the Sisters of the Province. Therefore, arrangements will be made accordingly for the sharing of the same and the Sisters who participated in the meeting will be given responsibility for this. As preliminary step of follow up of the PCI Formators meet, we will have an online meeting of all those involved in the formation sector on 6 September from 2 pm onwards.

PCI Provincials' Meeting: On 29 August, all the 7 Provincials of FMA India had the opportunity of encountering each other through zoom meet together with Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil from Rome. After a brief introductory message, she shared news about the GC XXIV preparation and the urgent task of studying the working document by all the sisters until we receive further guidelines from the centre.

Team members: On 30 August 2020, the Provincial Council reshuffled the members of some sectors of the Provincial Team and some new members were appointed

Youth Pastoral

- Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew (Coordinator)
- Sr. Bashisha Massar (RiBhoi+Umswai)
- Sr. Lucia Syiem (East Khasi)
- Sr. Manoda Sangma (Cachar)
- Sr. Margareth Changte (Mizoram)
- Sr. Merciful Nongsiej (Tripura)
- Sr. Mildaris Marwein (Garo Hills)
- Sr. Pherdalin Thongni (West Khasi)
- Sr. Anita Dhar (Jaintia Hills)

Formation Sector

Ongoing Formation

- Sr. Rosa Pyngrope (Coordinator)
- Sr. Marvella Shangliang
- Sr. Kyntiewlin Kurbah (Pre Aspirants)
- Sr. Euginia Kyntiewlin Susngi (Temporary professed)

Initial Formation

- Sr. Phyllis Bamon (Postulants & Aspirants)
- Sr. Selinda Wanniang (Temporary professed)

Vocation Pastoral

- Sr. Carmelina Sun (Coordinator)
- Sr. Lucy Marak
- Sr. Rose Mary Lyngdoh

For the Social Development Sector, Sr. Helen Puwein will replace Sr. Merilyn Wahlang as the Coordinator and the rest of the members remain unchanged.

The sectors that are not mentioned above remain as they were the previous year. I greet all the members of the Provincial Team all the best in their endeavours. I thank the old members for their valid contribution in the animation of the various sectors in the Province and wish the new members all the best and God's blessings for a fruitful period of animation.

Meetings and Trainings: The Province will be organizing the following meetings in these coming days. I wish all the participants and the resource persons all the best and God's Blessings.

MEET	PARTICIPANTS	DATES	VENUE
Meeting of the Provincial Council and the Formation Team	Provincial Council + Team members	6 September 2020	Online @2:00 pm onwards
Meeting of the Provincial Council and al the Animators	Provincial Council + Animators	10 September 2020	Online 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Training on Project Writing <u>Resource Person:</u> Fr. Cyril Tirkey SDB	Sr. Aitihun Lawai Sr. Cecilia Ksoo Sr. Garnet Sutnga Sr. Habathmulang Dkhar Sr. Igina Kharjana Sr. Janicia Nongrum Sr. Lucia Syiem Sr. Lucy Sangriang Sr. Maria Goretti Nongrum Sr. Mary Lamare	14-16 September 2020	Bellefonte Community College

Prayers for the sick and the departed

We 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 remember in our special prayers:

- Sr. Teresa Phawa who is hospitalized at New Delhi due to Dengue fever
- The maternal Aunt of Sr. Gemima Pohrmen
- The Mother of Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang
- The Father of Sr. Jurilin Lyngkhoi

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

- Sr. Percynia Synnah and her family who lost their youngest brother on 5 August 2020
- Sr. Lona Sangma and her family at the loss of her Mother on 18 August 2020
- Sr. Elisha Sangma and Sr. Trisha Sangma at the demise of their maternal aunt on 18 August 2020
- To Fr. Provincial and confreres of Kolkata Province INC at the demise of Fr. Thomas Kanjirathumkal (KA Thomas) on 3 August and Fr. Reginald D'Silva on 16 August.

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.

I would like to conclude exhorting ourselves to live the month long prayerful observance of “*The Season of Creation*” (1 September- 4 October) praying and caring for God's creation. Just as the encyclical of Pope Francis “*Laudato Si*”, indicates a precise line of integral ecology, of sustainable development, this season is a time to reflect on our relationship with the environment — not just “distant” nature, but, crucially, the place where we live — and the ways in which our lifestyles and decisions as a society can endanger both the natural world and those inhabiting it, both humans and other creatures. “*It's a time of prayer, contemplation and, increasingly, calls to action*” said Pope Francis. This also goes in line with his prayer intention for September 2020, in which he asks everyone to pray that we learn to respect the planet’s resources.



SEASON OF CREATION

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed how deeply interconnected the world is. We have realized more than ever that we are not isolated from each other and that the conditions for human health and well-being are fragile. The impacts of

the pandemic force us to take seriously the need for vigilance and sustainable living conditions across the earth. This is even more important when considering environmental devastation and the threat of climate change that is happening in the world today.

The theme for the 2020 Season of Creation invites us to celebrate it under the title “*Jubilee for the Earth*”. The concept of the Jubilee is rooted in the Bible and emphasizes that there must be a fair and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities. Earth is a sanctuary of God’s presence. In that sanctuary we are invited to reflect on God’s presence, not only in church but throughout creation. Creation is a gift from God for humanity and for all living beings, so it is our responsibility to keep it as good and reliable stewards and as faithful servants of God; to contribute towards realizing the need for a prophetic voice in defense of the common home.

Let us unite in prayer and action in celebrating meaningfully this season of Creation. I recommend all the communities to take concrete steps in celebrating this season and kindly send a report of the same to the Provincial Office. Materials sent by Sr. Runita Borja, the General Councilor of Youth Pastoral is also sent to you for community reflection and action.

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,
Affectionately,

Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial