



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/27/2020

01.11.2020

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

As we are heading towards the 150 years of the Foundation of our Institute and the 100 years of the FMA presence in India, the theme we have chosen to reflect upon this year is precisely the mandate given by our Blessed Mother to our Co- foundress, St. Mary Mazzarello: “I entrust them to you: Becoming a caring and loving community”.

This mandate given to Mother Mazzarello is today addressed to us perhaps with a wider connotation because we are living in changed contexts and under situations which are very different in many aspects. We are expected to go beyond the confines of our own circles and beyond the walls of our institutions, in answer to the call of GC XXIV to become communities that generate life and live the original mandate with charismatic sensitivity and creativity. Mother Yvonne in her Circular 1002 refers to the missionary generativity highlighted by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* which are in tune with the Salesian Educative style viz. take initiative, get involved, accompany, bear fruit, celebrate.

The recent encyclical of Pope Francis “**Fratelli Tutti**” seeks to focus on building a more just and fraternal world in daily relationships, in society, in politics, in institutions and to promote a universal outlook towards fraternity and social relationships. I see it as a divine coincidence that the theme chosen for reflection and deepening in the province: “**I entrust them to you - Becoming a caring and a loving community**” fits well within the frame and invitation of our Holy Father in the encyclical. Pope Francis invites everyone to come together and “*dream as a single human family*” in which we are “*brothers and sisters*”. Treating one another as brothers and sisters calls for a genuine attitude of caring and loving that fosters authentic relationship.

Inspired and enriched by the teachings of the Holy Father, and challenged by the call of GC XXIV may we carry on the task entrusted to Mother Mazzarello with the courage and audacity required of the time and together with the young people and become builders of a more just and humane society.

Solemnity of all the Saints

The celebration of all the Saints is a joyful occasion to remember all our brothers and sisters who preceded us on the pilgrimage of faith and who are already enjoying the beatific vision in Paradise. Saints become for us the models in living faithfully the Gospel values in every circumstance of our life. Saints were normal and ordinary people just as we are but what qualifies

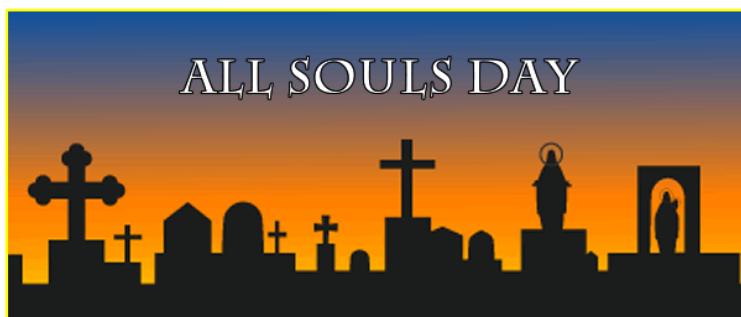


their life is that they were totally focussed on God and His Love; they wanted nothing more than live totally immersed in him, with him and for him which took them to the heights of holiness.

We too by the grace of Baptism are called to holiness. We are all called to be blessed and to be happy. We do not become holy because we are virtuous and good. Rather, it is a question of saying yes to God and allowing this divine life that lives in us through Baptism to emerge, manifest and expand to the outside world. Celebrating and commemorating all the Saints help orient the consciousness of our present life towards its final destination i.e: eternal life with the Lord. Orienting our lives towards the eternal invites us then to remove from our human, earthly condition all that is contrary to the dignity, the truth, the goodness of our being "children of God". As we look up to our saints today, we ask the Lord to grant us the grace to live holiness as a harmony of our inner life with God which is transformed into ways of holiness to the world. May the Saints, who are already enjoying the fullness of eternal life, who have traveled the way of the evangelical beatitudes, protect us on our journey towards the fullness of eternal happiness.

All Souls' Day

On the solemnity of all the saints, we looked up to Heaven to pray to those who have made the earthly pilgrimage and live in full communion with God. On 2 November we turn our gaze in loving memory of our departed brothers and sisters who preceded us in the sign of faith and sleep in the Lord's peace. The commemoration of our deceased brothers and sisters is a moment of great assurance for our Christian life because in their memory, we see the hope of the resurrection of Jesus and therefore of our destiny.



The annual remembrance of our loved ones leads us to think more profoundly from the point of eternity and resurrection. Their memory becomes an opportunity for us to confirm our faith in Christ who died and rose from the dead for our salvation. This day invites us to renew our commitment to treasure every teaching of the Church on eternal life and on the resurrection of the dead; to treasure every good example that our loved ones have left us as a precious inheritance, knowing that they still invite us to trust only in the Lord and pray from Heaven for us, waiting to meet and share the gift of full communion with God.

Christ the King

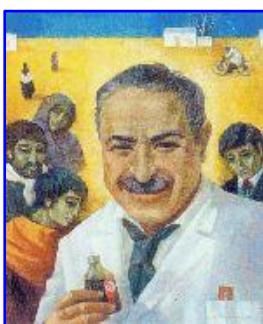
The last Sunday of the Liturgical Year which falls on 22 November this year celebrates the solemnity of Christ the King – a feast which reminds us that the Kingship of Christ consists in announcing the Truth, in leading people to it and freeing them from all darkness of error and sin. Jesus Christ is Lord of the universe as He is the beginning and end of creation, of humanity and of history. He came to this earth to share His life with us, to make us like Him, capable of the truth and of goodness; capable of overcoming sin, of giving ourselves totally and loving like him. As King, He came to place himself at the center of our lives, our mission and activities in order to infuse in us and in all a new spirit, the Spirit of His love, so that what is being accomplished may be lived in Him, with Him and for Him.



Recognizing that Jesus is king, we believe that with Him God has fully manifested that people's fulfillment can only take place in obedience to His will, in becoming a Servant King like His Son. Christ's Kingship teaches us that the life to which we are called is the same life that He lived: a life of service to others. By living it, we confess His majesty and in turn become people of peace and reconciliation. Jesus is King because, by forgiving and dying for the remission of sins, he creates a new unity among people. By breaking the bondage of hatred, He offers the possibility of a new future.

In company of the Salesian Saints

Blessed Artemide Zatti whose feast we keep on 13 November was a true Salesian educator faithful to the creative implementation of the Spirit of Don Bosco, whose mission was specifically dedicated to the care of the sick and ailing. He loved and cared for the people entrusted to his care in a truly empathetic and loving way. He saw in each of them Jesus himself. In their moments of trial and illness he was not only a nurse, but an educator in the faith of each person. He was truly a "good Samaritan" in the style of Don Bosco and "a sign and bearer of God's love" who radiated the light of God's presence in everyone's life. Faithful to the Salesian spirit instilled by Don Bosco to his children especially of work and temperance, he carried out his remarkable mission with habitual readiness of mind, with heroic spirit of sacrifice and with absolute detachment from all personal satisfaction. His frequent conviction "I always do everything for God" proves him to be a man of constant union with God in prayer as in activity. We seek his intercession that we may be more faithful and passionate in our life especially in taking care of all those entrusted to our care.



Blessed Magdalene Morano whom we commemorate on 15 November is another giant and saintly example of a life totally given to God and to the salvation of souls. She was fully committed to the mission that was entrusted to her with great passion and selfless dedication. With her motto "*one look down to earth and ten to heaven*", she ardently worked for the spread of God's love through the educational and catechetical mission among girls and young women, notwithstanding the barriers and difficulties she had to undergo. Her zeal for Christ and the charity

that she witnessed in life drew many souls to God especially those who were under her care. During her life time she emphasized and created a community environment that witnessed great fraternity among all. Her constant and genuine rapport with God was seen in her genuine and friendly relationship with everyone in her mission. Her apostolic caliber was such that even the ecclesiastical authority appreciated, supported and encouraged much her mission in the pastoral and catechetical fields. Let us imitate this exemplary and saintly Daughter of Mary Help of Christians that in our daily endeavors we may move on with greater passion and desire for God in caring for those entrusted to us.



Blessed Mamma Margaret is another beautiful and great figure of Salesian Holiness that deserves our attention, our honour and our imitation of her virtues. Mamma Margaret was a humble soul who exhibited the example of simplicity, wisdom, external poverty, interior richness and great educational wisdom. The grandeur of her saintly life is seen in her robust heart of love for God, for our Blessed Mother and for the others especially for the young people. We wouldn't have



had Don Bosco if he hadn't had a mother like Mamma Margaret who was the backbone behind his vocation and his apostolic works. She had not the opportunity to learn to read and write yet she possessed the great capacity of reading the reality with wisdom of the heart. She tried her best to combine her profound faith and trust in God with concrete acts of love and charity to her neighbours. As we celebrate her feast on 25 November, let us pray that following her example we may strive to live charity in its truest sense by the concrete example of our lives.

Family News & Communications

Centenary Preparations: We are entering into the second year of the Triduum in preparation for the centenary of FMA India with the theme "*Accept the mandate: 'I entrust them to you' - Reviving the Family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion*". For this year's animation, the Provinces of ING and INS will organize the spiritual animation for FMA India. Further communications on this will be communicated later. This second year preparation coincides also with the first year Triduum of the 100 years arrival of our missionaries to North East India. As was communicated earlier, the Province has appointed few Sisters for the Centenary Committee to organize the three-year preparation and the celebration of the centenary year. For this, the committee had already met with the Centenary Committee of ING Province to chalk out plans for the upcoming preparations and celebrations. The proposals will be intimated to the Province in due time.

As part of the preparation on the second year Triduum of FMA PCI, the Provinces of INC and INK have proposed to have a webinar on '**Salesian Pedagogy**' from 4-7 November 2020 from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. 12 communities from each Province will be taking part in it.

Congratulations: Our sincere and heartiest Congratulations to our Sisters for their hard work and efforts put in to come up successfully in their studies.

- Sr. Rose Mary Lyngdoh who secured an A grade in her Diploma in Sports Coaching conducted by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) at Kolkata.

- Sr. Janicia Nongrum, Sr. Rina Kharthangmaw, Sr. Marylang Suchiang and Sr. Evalynjoy Kympat who secured very good results in their Bachelor's of Education (B.Ed) Examinations with first division.

Meetings and Seminars: The following seminars and meetings were organized and attended by our Sisters in October at the Institute, FMA-PCI and Provincial level.

- *Study of GC XXIV:* During the PCI level virtual meeting of the Provincials, Delegates and Substitutes for GCXXIV held on 27 October 2020, the following additional information was given regarding the study of the Chapter Document. It was communicated that the Chapter study needs to be enriched through reflection on:
 - ✓ The reality of the Covid-19 pandemic
 - ✓ The encyclical '*Fratelli Tutti*' of Pope Francis
 - ✓ Weekly Catechesis instructions of Pope Francis – "*To heal the world*"
 - ✓ Consideration of the Indian reality- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and National Education Policy.
- *Financial Administration:* On 29 October, the Animators, School Principals, Local economists and few other Sisters of Meghalaya State had the enlightenment on the various issues of '*Administrative and Financial Management of Registered Societies*' at FMA Outreach, Shillong by Fr. James Thyrniang SDB, Provincial Economer of Shillong Province along with Mr. Libianta Suchiang, his collaborator. Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Provincial Economer of our Province also shared on the practical aspects and progressive policies of the financial administration in our mission. Sincere gratitude to Fr. James, Mr. Libianta and Sr. Gemima for the tactful and professional exposition of the matter.
- *Sharing of the Document 'The Personal Encounter':* On 30 October, the sharing of the new Document of the Institute '*The Personal Encounter*' was done to the same group. I, together with Sr. Plenish Marak presented to the group the various Chapters of the Document and the modality with which the study has to be made in the different communities. I thank Sr. Plenish for sharing the responsibility to present the Document to the Sisters. I encourage everyone to take to heart this important task assigned by the Institute. The animators will make the presentation to all the sisters in their respective communities. Whereas the other regions of Tripura, Mizoram, Dholai and Umswai who were unable to come due to the Covid-19 restrictions will study it in their own communities.

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 continue to implore God's mercy for the suffering world and for deliverance and protection from Covid-19.

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

- Sr. Jenney Iawphnias at the tragic demise of her youngest brother on 10 October 2020.
- Sr. Assunta Lyngdoh who lost her elder sister on 11 October 2020.
- Sr. Gemima Pohrmen at the passing away of her maternal aunt on 15 October 2020.

- Sr. Marcellina Sangma at the departure of her father on 29 October 2020.
- Sr. Angelina Thyrniang and Sr. Eudashisha Sohshang who lost their cousins on 10 and 27 October respectively.
- Fr Joseph Pauria SDB, Provincial of Kolkata and the Province of INC at the passing away of Fr. Mathew Vezhambecherry SDB on 30 September 2020.
- Sr. Rose Ezarath FMA and the Province of INC at the demise of Sr. Matilde Xaxa FMA on 10 October 2020.
- Fr. Savio Silveria SDB, Provincial of Mumbai and the Province of INB at the departure of Fr. Elias Dias SDB on 30 October 2020.

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.

Beginning of Advent / Novena of the Immaculate Conception

I would like to conclude reminding ourselves that very soon we will enter into the new Liturgical year with the onset of the Season of Advent on 29 November. Advent is a time of grace which invites us to a meaningful silence and waiting, more intense prayer and more generous fraternal charity. This time of "waiting" is inspired and supported above all by the one who prepared a house for the Son of God- 'Mary' who because of her purity and humility was chosen to be the Mother of the incarnate Word.



This year we are privileged to begin the Advent Season together with the Novena of the Immaculate Conception. Looking at the mystery of Mary from the perspective of the redemption wrought by Christ, gives us a singular trait of the Mother's heart: the profound and rooted certainty that God exists, and acts in human history to redeem and save it. As we journey onwards in the Advent Season in company of our Blessed Mother, let us put our efforts to purify ourselves from all that is not God.

**Once again I wish each and every one a Happy and Holy Season of Advent and Fervent
Novena of the Immaculate Conception**

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,

Affectionately,

**Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial**