



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

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03.07.2021

My dear Sisters,

Loving and prayerful greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We have entered into the new month which reminds us that we are half way through the year. We are at a juncture when we are given the opportunity to look back at the first half of 2021 and see all the blessings and graces that came through our way in our life and mission, the plans made, the achievements realized and the challenges we've met. The first half of the year was not in a way very peaceful with the consequences of the pandemic Covid- 19 that has adversely affected our life and mission. In this time of uncertainty, we are challenged to fit ourselves in with the new normal. The unusual circumstances and changes in our normal routine require our reflection and realignment of our outlook towards life and our mission in order to adapt ourselves to the realities around us. All of us are troubled by the circumstances around us yet as people of Hope we are encouraged to look up in faith and spread the message of hope, to trust more in the power of God's love and to move on courageously in solidarity with the suffering humanity. As the world and our country wrestles with responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, with its consequences to individuals and communities at large, we are reminded that everything is not under our control. When there is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide, God is always there to help us, to shield us, to comfort us and to protect us as we read in the book of Deuteronomy 31:6 "*Be strong, stand firm, have no fear, do not be afraid of them for Yahweh your God is going with you; He will not fail you or desert you.*" Let us forge ahead with greater faith and courage, becoming people of Hope to others especially the most stricken portion of humanity.

As Christians and religious, we are all the more privileged to begin this second half of the year with the month dedicated to the most precious blood of Christ which gives us much consolation and surety that Christ's blood will purify and save us and the entire humanity - for Christ shed His blood for this one purpose to bring us all to salvation. The most significant act of this great love of God is that He wanted to join us and make a pact of love with us for our eternal salvation. The precious blood of Christ reproduces in us its regal, splendid effigy and enriches us with an incredible beauty. It does not let the dignity of the soul diminish but often nourishes it. It irrigates the soul and infuses it with the powerful



divine strength. The power of the blood of Jesus to redeem us from our sins is infinite. St. Thomas puts it graphically by saying that one drop is enough to save the whole world. Knowing that one of his own had betrayed him and handed him over to his executioners, the Lord Jesus, with full freedom and awareness, offered his body and blood for our salvation, transforming betrayal and violent bloodshed into a gift of love. The blood of Christ is therefore, the pledge of God's faithful love for humanity. Gazing at the Crucifix, every person, even in conditions of extreme moral misery, can say: God has not abandoned me, He loves me, He gave his life for me; and thus, everyone finds true hope in Christ. The Blood of Christ has not only redeemed us, but is also the source of all grace, the price of all favor that comes to us from God for it cancels our sins and remedies the horrible evils caused by sin and reconciles us with divine justice that purifies us from all guilt.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians 2:7-8 wrote: “*Christ emptied himself taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are, and being in every way like a human being, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a Cross.*” This is evident that Christ shed His blood in expiation for the sins of all humankind and in total surrender and obedience to His Father’s will. St. Paul highlighted this attitude of Jesus’ obedience as the cause of our justification. Christ’s obedience thus sets the goal for us too as consecrated persons called to assume the way of life of Jesus- obedient to the Father. As we draw closer to the foundation day of our Institute recalling our very own ‘Yes’ to the Father’s will, it is good to look at the image of Jesus on the Cross, shedding every single blood for our salvation. It is an invitation to imitate His selfless gift in obedience to the Father. During this time, there will be lots of occasions that give us the opportunity to say Yes to God through our generous self-gift. The new assignments that many of you will be entrusted with, the transfers from one community to another, the availability to the change of place, of situations, of activities, etc... are concrete opportunities that call for our generous ‘Yes’. Let us learn from Jesus to humble ourselves to God’s will in our keen submission to His invitation through these various moments and opportunities in our life.

First World Day of Grandparents and Elderly

On 25th July 2021, the Church will celebrate the first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. This celebration was announced by Pope Francis on 31 January 2021 which will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in July. To express the closeness of God and of the church to every elderly person, Pope Francis has chosen the theme for this inaugural commemoration “***I am with you always***” (Mt 28:20). It expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every elderly person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the encyclical, ‘Fratelli Tutti,’ the Holy Father reminds us that “no one is saved alone. With this in mind, we must treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation.”

The celebration of this day aims at bringing closer the relationship of the young and the old. “Not only are grandchildren and youths invited to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith” said Pope Francis.

Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, the prefect of the Dicastery for laity, the Family and Life while presenting the message of Holy Father emphasized much on the need to embrace tenderness towards the elderly especially those who suffered much during this pandemic. He stresses on the importance that tenderness is not just a private feeling but rather a way of relating to others that carries a precious social value to build and rebuild relationships that perhaps are often torn down in our days by many evil sources as Pope Francis reiterates in the encyclical ‘Fratelli Tutti’.



Celebrating this special day is indeed for us a duty of expressing gratitude for life, for attention, for concern, for suffering, for sacrifices, for love and sympathy of grandparents and elderly people. In our own religious circle, we express our sincere love and gratitude to all our elderly sisters who have paved the way for us with their undaunted sacrifice and great love and passion. Today we honour and salute them for the commendable and selfless service they render to the Church and the Institute with great vision for the future generations. On this day they are the protagonists and with them we sing praise to God for His wonders wrought through their life.

Pope Francis once said “Where there is no honour for the elders, there is no future for the young”. Let us therefore celebrate this day in a spirit of thankfulness and reverence for our elderly sisters, our grandparents and elderly people in the society. May their example and witnessing life help us push us forward with greater passion to come out better in serving God and humanity. May the Lord bless and keep them all in His loving care and protection.

[Kindly find in the attachment the prayer for the first World Day of grandparents and the elderly which we can pray on 25th July]

Family News and Communications

Happy home coming: We warmly welcome back home Sr. Rihunlang Muthoh who has completed her 2 years course in Salesian Spirituality in Rome. We congratulate her for having completed successfully her studies and wish her fruitful mission in the Province. She arrived in the province yesterday 2 July 2021.

Inauguration of the new communities: We are grateful to Mother General for her approval of the canonical erection of the two new communities at Auxilium Roilang, Nongstoiñ and Auxilium Khapmara. The tentative dates proposed for the inauguration are 13th and 24th August 2021 respectively. We thank God for His signs of love manifested in our daily life and mission and we entrust the two communities to the loving and maternal patronage of our Blessed Mother to shield and protect every member of the communities and all those who will be involved in our mission. May our presence be an inspiration to draw many souls to God. We thank the communities of St. Peter’s Pyndengrei Nongstoiñ and Mazzarello, Mawkyrdep for supporting these two presences which will now become full-fledged communities.

FIAT! in God's service: We congratulate our Candidates, Novices and Young Sisters who are being admitted to the various stages of religious formation and to the different professions. We appreciate their spirit of generosity and courage to say 'YES' to God and to His mission. Our prayers and sisterly accompaniment will be our gift for them.

➤ The 19 Novices who will make their First Profession on 5 August 2021 at Mary our Help Training Centre, Bellefonte are:

- Sr. Khardewsaw Joyslin
- Sr. Lyngdoh Marshillong Ailin Mary
- Sr. Lyngdoh Yonaris
- Sr. Maiong Lusimai
- Sr. Majaw Esha Mery
- Sr. Marak M. Tengmitchi
- Sr. Marwein Jobita
- Sr. Nonglang Ebarisha
- Sr. Nongshli Dashailin
- Sr. Nongsiej Fulljoy
- Sr. Pyngrope Tngenlang Mary
- Sr. Saio Lidianadurka
- Sr. Satein Charanam
- Sr. Sutnga Dafflin
- Sr. Sutnga Ibameri
- Sr. Syngkon Melinda
- Sr. Thyрниang Theresa
- Sr. Wahlang Rosilin
- Sr. Wahlang Wandakashisha



➤ The 16 Postulants who will enter the Novitiate in August 2021 are:

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| • Dhar Ajanta | • Papang Mercy |
| • Khardewsaw Kyntiewhun Mary | • Pariong Ribandalin |
| • Kharkongor Aihunlin | • Phawa Jessica |
| • Kharumnuid Fatima | • Pyngrope Almashisha |
| • Lalhrwaitluangi Maria Goretti | • Pyngrope Ridasuk |
| • Lapasam Sumarlang-i | • Sangma A. Fatima |
| • Marak M. Sophia | • Taropi Ibasika |
| • Marwein Inosencia | • Thongni Wanda Mary |

➤ 74 temporary professed sisters will renew their vows in this coming month. We are not sure yet if they can be gathered together for the renewal course depending on the protocols of the government. Timely information will be given to you regarding this. Let us accompany our

young sisters in this immediate preparation for the renewal of the vows with our prayerful support. This difficult time of the pandemic has prevented them to come together since last year but we hope and pray that the Lord will show us the way.

Perpetual profession: This year 2021, the province will not celebrate the Perpetual Profession of our sisters but is postponed to 2022. The Sisters concerned and their respective communities have already been notified. We accompany our sisters who are preparing for this important step with our prayers and sisterly support in their journey ahead.

Mission Ad Gentes: In response to the constant invitation and request of our dear Mother General to the mission ad Gentes, the Provincial Council has analyzed the applications of many generous sisters who opted to offer themselves to serve God as missionaries. I am happy to communicate to you that we are glad to contribute our missionary gifts to the Institute in the person of Sr. Ester Suting and Sr. Embok Suchiang this year. We thank God for the gift of their missionary vocation and their generosity to answer God's call. May the ardour of our first missionaries inspire many more to answer and be generous to God's loving invitation. Sr. Ester and Sr. Embok will leave the province when the situation gets better and after obtaining all the documents required for the same. Meanwhile, we offer them our prayers and support in this important and noble mission they will embrace.

Spiritual Retreat: The Postulants will be making their Annual Spiritual Retreat at Auxilium Saiden from 22-29 July and the Novices from 20-27 July 2021 at Bellefonte Novitiate. Due to the restrictions of the prevailing situation of the pandemic, there will be no possibility to hold the retreat for the temporary professed Sisters as scheduled earlier. Therefore, they will have their retreat in the different communities and regions depending on the convenience of each community and region. However, we hope and pray that before their renewal of the vows, we will be able to gather them all for the renewal programme and the renewal of the vows. Let us unite in prayers for this special intention. We accompany our sisters, Novices and Postulants with our prayers that they may have an enriching experience and fruitful encounter with the Lord before they embrace another step in their religious life and formation.

Congratulations: We extend our warmest congratulations to Fr. Angelo Sylvester Miranda who was appointed by our Rector Major as the 4th Provincial Superior of the Salesian Vice Province of Sri Lanka (LKC). We assure him of our prayerful support in this noble mission.

Prayers for the sick and the departed

We extend our prayerful support to all the sick ones through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. We offer our special prayers for:

- The Mother of Sr. Monica Lyngdoh
- All our Sisters and family members who are not well in the hospital and in the communities.
- All the people who are being affected by the Corona Virus.

We continue to implore God's mercy on the suffering world especially for our country and our state, we unite in prayers for the complete 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. Risalin Kharkongor at the departure of her cousin brother on 1 June 2021.
- Sr. Iris Suchiang at the demise of her maternal aunt on 2 June 2021.
- Sr. Rosalin warbah at the passing away of her maternal aunt on 8 June 2021.
- Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw who lost her paternal aunt on 10 June 2021. The deceased is also the youngest sister of (L)Sr. Agnes Kurkalang.
- Sr. Handaka Shadap at the departure of her maternal grandmother on 10 June 2021.
- Sr. Silinda Wanniang at the passing away of her paternal aunt on 15 June 2021.
- Sr. Teilanda Syngkon who lost her paternal uncle on 25 June 2021.
- Sr. Monica Kharkongor and Sr. Risilin Kharkongor (1nd year Novice) at the demise of their maternal aunt on 27 June 2021. The deceased is the mother of Amisha Kharkongor (Aspirant) and Sr. Phibakordor Kharkongor (2nd year Novice in Bangalore Province). Our prayerful solidarity with all of them.
- Fr. Provincial and the Province of Chennai at the demise of Fr. Antony Pottakerry SDB and Fr. Antonysamy Soosairathnam on 2 and 23 June 2021 respectively.
- Fr. Provincial and the Province of Trichy at the passing away of Fr. Sahayaraj Arulkannu SDB and Fr. James Theophilus SDB on 4 and 5 June 2021 respectively.
- Fr. Provincial and the Province of Hyderabad at the death of Fr. Maniyangattuthazhe Joseph SDB on 6 June 2021.
- Fr. Provincial and the Province of Dimapur at the departure of Fr. Emmanuel Xalxo SDB on 11 June 2021.
- All the relatives of our sisters and of our collaborators in our mission.

We surrender to the Lord the souls of all priests, religious and people who succumbed to Covid -19. 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.

Feasts of the month

03 July – St. Thomas the Apostle

07 July – Blessed Maria Romero

16 July – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

22 July – St. Mary Magdalene

25 July – St. James the Apostle

24 June - St. John the Baptist

26 July – Sts. Joachim & Anne

28 July – St. Alphonsa Muthathupadathu

31 July – St. Ignatius of Loyola

I would like to conclude with a festal greeting on this day as we celebrate the solemnity of St. Thomas, the Apostle of our Motherland India. May this giant saint enthuse in us with his very own zeal and passion to proclaim God and His love to everyone we encounter in life. We unite in solidarity with the various Christian denominations in India to celebrate the first '*Indian Christian day*'. As proud Christians of India, we welcome the decade long celebration (2021-2030) with an open heart to collaborate with the vision of the organizers to mark the 2000th anniversary of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ and to make Christianity part of the Indian history and ethos as stated Fr. Babu Joseph, the former spokesman of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI). May the celebration of this day give more courage and increase the faith of all Christians in India to stand tall and persevere in witnessing Christ and His love. May St. Thomas intercede for our Church in India.



With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,

Affectionately,

Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial