



# Provincial Circular

## Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/40/2021

01.12.2021

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

**A**t the very outset I would like to greet you a very Happy and fervent New Liturgical Year. The dawn of Advent creates in us a sense of Hope and longing for something that is new especially with the coming of our Saviour at Christmas. The beginning of a new year in the Church with the season of Advent reminds us not just of our expectation for salvation but more importantly a time of renewing and rejuvenating our faith life. The Church proposes to us to live this entire span of time in faith with reference to Christ. This holy season invites us to relive the long wait of the people for the Redemption in the four weeks of Advent through the reading and meditation of the Sacred Scripture in particular by listening to the word of the Prophets and men of God, who had the task of preparing the way for Christ through the experience of the Chosen People and arousing the hope also destined for all peoples. The Liturgy of Advent in fact proclaims the primacy of God and announces and celebrates the mystery of the Redemption and salvation.

In Advent it is not only we who prepare ourselves for the encounter with God, but also - so to speak - God himself prepares to meet us in the reality of our life, He who is the "true light, that enlightens every one" (Jn 1: 9). It is a question here of two coordinated lines: the horizontal one relating to our preparation for welcoming Christ and the vertical one the descending of God who, having entered human history, does not abandon it. The coming of the Lord that we contemplate in the Incarnation is not over, but a mystery that continues in the Church through the self-emptying attitude of Christ, who assumed the nature of a servant and making himself obedient to death and death on the cross (cf. Phil 2, 6-8) in order to bring salvation to the world.



As the Church teaches us that Advent indicates also the expectation of the eschatological time, this holy season therefore prepares us for the liturgical and spiritual encounter with the Lord. At the same time, it invites us to reflect on our ultimate encounter with God, when, as the Apostle Paul teaches in the First Letter to the Corinthians, we "will see him face to face" (1 Cor 13:12). We are constantly reminded that a Christian's life is a journey that leads to an encounter with the Lord; accompanied by prayer, hope and good works. The Church offers us an opportunity to prepare ourselves to await the coming of the Lord Jesus in our life. Advent therefore, does not simply prepare us for the celebration of Christmas, but even more, it reminds us that the believer lives and inhabits the attitude of one who is surprised by the fact that he/she is continually visited by the presence of God. Everyday is the time where God continues to manifest himself to us. The ordinariness of our daily life is the place and the time where we can realize that He continues to care for us, despite our infidelities and our distractions. The holy season of Advent we know will accompany us to discover and favor this face of a God who loves humankind as we prepare ourselves for the encounter with our Emmanuel 'God-with-us', with the One who did not come just once in history, but continues to make himself present in the sign of the Word and the Bread and in our everyday life.

Our Province has recently experienced this advent of the Lord in the life of our dear Sr. Mary Kadicheeny who winged her flight to Heaven to encounter God face to face on 22 November 2021. The hopeful side of Advent encourages us to recognize the second coming of Jesus as a perpetual coming as in the life of Sr. Mary - a time of becoming, of becoming a people who clearly envision and embody the life soon to come. We have witnessed in the departure of Sr. Mary that the advent of the Lord was so sudden and unexpected indeed...but we are confident that her entire life was a constant preparation for the encounter of her Spouse on that particular day. Sr. Mary had always served God faithfully in the people who come into her life especially the poor and the downtrodden, for whom she always nurtured a very special love and affection. Her 50 years and more of missionary life in the North East has proven her great love for God and his people in our mission land and a constant encounter with God in her everyday life. The motto that guided her life "*Take Jesus to people and people to Jesus*" had indeed become the guiding principle of her life and her mission to which she gave herself totally for the sake of the people in her mission. Her preparation for the Advent of the Lord was a gradual and daily process of small and genuine acts of charity particularly in the lives of many people whom she had touched- young and old especially the poor ones. She has left us a legacy that we need to carry forward and to perpetuate in our mission especially the constant waiting for the Advent of the Lord at a favorable time.

While we contemplate the mysteries of God's love for humankind and while we cherish in memory the life lived by our dear Sister, let us await the coming of our God in our lives with Faith and Hope and prepare a fitting place for Him to be born in our hearts and lives. As we wait with an active spirit, let us begin enacting the future we imagine coming soon and put our hope into play now. Only then can we discover that there is a way of living which actually becomes the future we anticipate. In this sense, we are ushering in the fullness of the kingdom, the actualization of a hope and the worthy preparation for the Advent of the Lord at Christmas and in our personal lives.

## *Immaculate Conception*

The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception reminds us that God in His providential love for humanity "prepared a worthy dwelling" for his Son Jesus, the redeemer of the world. While we delve on the mysteries of God in the Immaculate Conception, it is very apt to make a reflection in relationship with the time of Advent, which prepares us to celebrate the Lord's birth. In the Gospel of St. John, we read that the eternal Son of God has come to dwell among us, has 'made a home' with us (cf. Jn 1, 14). God has found a home first of all, precisely in Mary's "Yes", as we read in the Gospel of St. Luke "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it happen to me according to your word" (Lk 1, 38). God also found a home in the faith of Joseph who, in turn, 'is not afraid' (cf. Mt 1, 20; cf. Lk 1, 30) of welcoming Mary and the child to be born into his house. Indeed, the mystery of Christmas will remind us that it is not so obvious that God 'finds a home' in the midst of humanity. The Nativity scene will remind us that 'there was no room' for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in the places where men live, and that the first bed of the child, infant Son of God, was a manger, among the animals.



For this we firmly believe that God prepared a 'worthy dwelling' in Mary, a 'proper home', for the coming of His only begotten Son and redeemer of the world among us. By preserving Mary from the inheritance of sin from the very first moment of her existence, God lays in her the foundation of true freedom, rooted in friendship with him. We may at times forget that God is not the limit of our freedom, but is precisely its foundation. Mary could say her yes with full freedom, without feeling constrained in any way, neither physically nor spiritually because God laid this foundation: and he did it by removing, from the beginning, every obstacle to freedom, and in particular that obstacle which is sin, which is enmity with God. To overcome enmity, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, came among us and gave himself up for us, to the point of dying on the cross for us. For all of us, and also for the Virgin Mary herself, the 'gift of freedom' is the root of the new bond with God, of the new friendship with Him because we were

set free by the grace of God. As Saint Paul recalls in his letter to the Galatians: "Christ set us free, so that we should remain free" (Gal 5, 1).

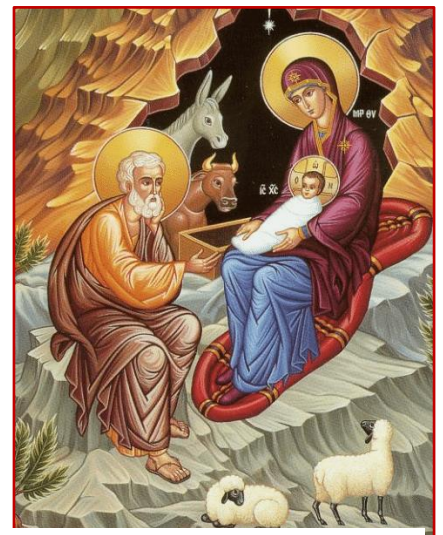
In Mary's Immaculate Conception, we witness the two main axis of the history of salvation which intersect in an admirable way: the vertical one of **Grace**, of **election**: "He chose us in Christ before the world was made to be holy and faultless before him in love" (Eph 1,4) and the horizontal one of **adherence** and **self-gift**, "Here I am the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1,38). Whatever the vocation of each of us may be, the hour of apprehension arrives for all, the hour in which following seems impossible. But what happened to Mary has a paradigmatic value for us believers of every age and time: 'do not fear', 'the Lord is with you', are the promises that Mary heard herself say with faith and freedom and they are the words in which every believer is encouraged and motivated to exercise the freedom of the children of God

especially in saying ‘Yes’ to God’s promptings in daily life. In contemplating Mary Immaculate we are therefore invited to guard our freedom as true and worthy children of God by trying to do like Mary: to live our response to God in freedom, becoming in turn a ‘self-gift’ and a ‘worthy dwelling’, a welcoming home for the presence of God in the world, in the society and in our communities.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception has also a significant note in the life of Don Bosco and of the Salesian Congregation which marks the beginning of the mission of Don Bosco with the powerful invocation of the ‘Hail Mary’. Don Bosco's whole life presents a Marian perspective so singular, that we can clearly read the presence and the influence of Mary. The Immaculate Conception was always for Don Bosco the Madonna of the origins of the oratory, she who favored the development of the work, and the sublime ideal of purity to which educators and young people should have been inspired. We are certain that Mary continues to be our guide, our model and our inspirer in our educative mission to this very day. Let us therefore continue to trust in her motherly guidance and assistance with full trust and faith because “in her we find a living presence and the help to decisively orient our life to Christ and to be ever more authentic in our rapport with Him.” (cf. FMA Constitutions, Art 79).

### *Christmas Novena*

**W**e are fast approaching the great day of preparation for our salvation with the celebration of the Christmas Novena [16-24 December]. The Christmas Novena has an enormous significance for Christians who await the coming of the Saviour at Christmas. The traditional prayer set in the recitation of psalms and songs reveals the ardent desire for the coming of Jesus. There are various metaphors that nourish the joy of waiting in the Novena: Jesus will come as light, as peace, as dew, as sweetness, as novelty, as powerful King, as universal ruler, as child, as a just Lord that arouses an attitude in the believer: to stop and adore the Lord who is soon coming. From Christian and religious perspective, the significance of this solemn novena also calls us to pause and reflect personally what type of preparation do we make for the coming of the Lord: Am I ready to open my heart to the Lord who is to come? Will the Lord find a fitting place in my heart when He comes? What could block His entry into my heart? How can I remind myself of the coming of the Lord into my heart and my life and how can I share the good news of His coming?



*Maranatha!*

The ‘Christmas Novena’, is indeed a precious inheritance that the Church hands over with great confidence and simplicity and proves to be a precious opportunity to live the days preceding the solemnity of Christmas with greater intensity of faith that is translated in sincere prayers, courageous commitments and authentic charitable works. Pope Francis in one of his audiences recalls that faith to be translated into concrete acts needs corporal and spiritual works of mercy to awaken our often-dormant conscience. Our spiritual preparation for the coming of our Saviour too needs to be authenticated with our concrete works



of love and charity. In the midst of our daily works and commitments, we seek the Lord's grace in order to prepare a fitting room for Him to be born at Christmas in our hearts and lives.

### *Family News and Communications*

**Second Novitiate:** The first phase of the Second Novitiate will be held at Mazzarello Home, Dimapur from 18 December 2021- 18 January 2022 [arrival on 17 December and departure on 19 January]. We are grateful to Sr. Alphonsa Kurisingal, Provincial of Guwahati Province and her council for making the necessary arrangements and organization of this important period for our sisters who are preparing to commit their lives totally to God and His Kingdom. Our sincere gratitude also to Sr. Sania Josephine who will coordinate this one-month period of prayer and reflection and to the community who is hosting the programme for our sisters. We assure our dear 16 sisters and the 12 sisters of Guwahati Province our sincere prayers and sisterly support in this significant phase of their religious life. May our Blessed Mother guide and accompany them in this intense preparation for their final commitment to God. The sisters of the Second Novitiate are:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Sr. Kharkongor Liza Mary     | 9. Sr. Rongrin Elinda             |
| 2. Sr. Kharkongor Monica        | 10. Sr. Rongrin Rishailin         |
| 3. Sr. Lamare Beronica          | 11. Sr. Rongrin Roda Mary         |
| 4. Sr. Lyngdoh Nonglait Manosha | 12. Sr. Sangma Amalia             |
| 5. Sr. Lyngdoh Yowanka          | 13. Sr. Sangriang Lucy            |
| 6. Sr. Lyngkhai Jurilin Mary    | 14. Sr. Sympli Vanisha            |
| 7. Sr. Molsom Gita              | 15. Sr. Thaimei Guanglinlu Gloria |
| 8. Sr. Ramshon Riotalin         | 16. Sr. Warjri Ibaniewkor         |

**Congratulations:** We offer our heartiest congratulations to Sr. Jenney Iawphniaw and Sr. Ibaniewkor Warjri who secured the top position in the University for their Bachelor's Degree in Computer Applications (BCA). We are proud of them and congratulate their sincere efforts and hard work. May the Lord bless them in their mission forward. Our sincere appreciation and congratulations also to all our sisters who have fared very well in the various examinations conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University. May their efforts be richly blessed by God in their respective mission.

**Thank you:** I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has been close to us in prayers and solidarity at the demise of our dear Sr. Mary Kadicheeny on 22 November 2021. My sincere appreciation to all our communities in the Province who have accompanied Sr. Mary with prayers, encouragement and visits during her days of ailment and especially at her departure for her eternal home. I owe my gratitude to all the FMA and SDB Provinces, all religious institutions, civil authorities, Salesian cooperators and past pupils, young people and everyone who were close to us in solidarity and prayers with their presence and their



condolence messages. I sincerely express my appreciation to all the people in and around Shillong who had come to pay their last respect and homage to Sr. Mary. Their presence with us in those days truly speaks of the intensity of how much Sr. Mary had touched their lives. May our departed sister bless you all from Heaven. I say a big thank you to the community of Auxilium- Nongthymmai, to Sr. Carmelina Sun the animator, Sr. Riotalin Ramshon and Sr. Mariadashisha Warjri the nurses who took care of Sr. Mary along with other sisters of the community who took turns in caring for her especially in these past months when she needed more attention to her needs. My gratitude also to Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, Sr. Gemma Phyllei and Sr. Martilin Nongkynrih who had given their best to look after Sr. Mary in the past year of her ailment. May the Lord reward you and may Sr. Mary intercede for you and the needs of the community. To the only Sister, brothers and dear ones of our dear Sr. Mary, we pay our deep respect for their love, care and concern and for being close to Sr. Mary in her earthly days and at her passing away. To everyone who was part of the life of Sr. Mary, we say a big 'Thank you'. Everyone who came to visit the mortal remains of Sr. Mary recalled her great love and passion for the poorest of the poor. This preferential option for the poor and marginalized is something that GCXXIV has highlighted and taken as a priority to live as part of our post chapter journey. May Sr. Mary intercede powerfully from Heaven for God's blessings upon you and your mission.

**Boscoree:** We are happy to receive the convocation letter from Fr. Januarius Sangma SDB, Provincial of Guwahati Province ING communicating that the next Boscoree will be held from 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 at Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia Gardens, Guwahati. We send ahead our prayers for the year- long preparation for this mega event of the Salesian Scouts and Guides. Let us join hands in active collaboration in this celebration together with our young people. [*The convocation letter is attached along with this circular*]

**Priestly Ordinations:** We extend our warmest and prayerful greetings to all the Deacons who will be ordained priests in this month in the different Provinces and Dioceses of India. We accompany them with our prayers that they may remain faithful and committed to the covenant they make with God.

**GCXXIV Sharing:** A group of temporary professed Sisters will have the GCXXIV sharing from 7-10 December 2021. The remaining temporary professed sisters will join the chapter sharing attached to the retreats of the perpetually professed sisters in February and March as was communicated. There will be no sharing in the month of July. Let us keep special intention in our prayers for these meetings that the outcome of GCXXIV may produce fruits in our personal lives and mission.

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

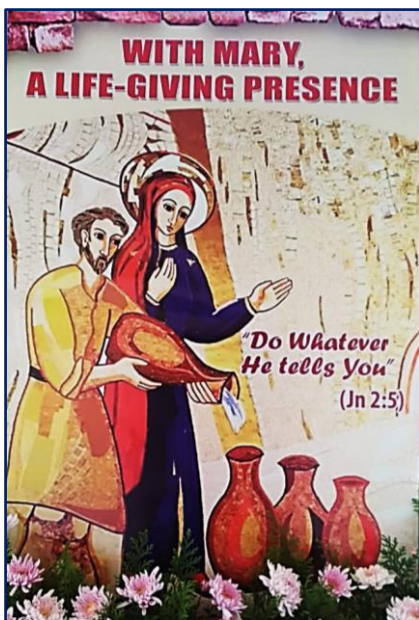
**W**e extend our prayerful support to all the sick ones through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother especially our sisters, relatives and members of the Salesian Family.

We offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all those who lost their dear ones in the past month especially our sisters and members of the Salesian Family.

- Sr. Felicita Rynshon at the passing away of her mother on 13 November 2021.
- Sr. Mariadashisha Warjri who lost her brother on 17 November 2021.
- Sr. Mary Concepta Pasi and Sr. Stella Mary Pasi at the demise of their father on 22 November 2021.
- Sr. Ephrilda Mawsor at the passing away of her sister on 23 November 2021.
- All our sisters who lost their relatives and dear ones in the month of November.
- Sr. Nirmala Lazar FMA and the sisters of Chennai Province at the demise of Sr. Celine Anthoniappan on 24 November 2021.
- Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Bangalore Province (INK) at the demise of Fr. Dominic Veliath on 27 November 2021.

May the departed ones enjoy the loving embrace of God forever in His Kingdom and may all those who mourn their passing away be consoled by the strength and grace of God.

The calendar has turned the page to the last month of this year 2021 and we have every reason to turn our gaze to God in gratitude for the many graces we have experienced and the blessings He has lavished on our life. We thank Him in particular for the protection and providence we have received from His bounty in many ways. We have the opportunity to close another chapter of our life with the end of this year marked with various occasions and which gave us reasons to “Give thanks...” In this time laden with many preparations and events, it is appropriate for us to stop a while and give ourselves some time to dedicate for reflection.



Like every year, the year 2021 also had its own adventures - many things have happened, many joyful and sad occasions, beautiful encounters and challenges. As every year there have been blessings, surprises, disappointments, fears, new discoveries and commitments, etc... We are grateful to God also for the great event that has just taken place in the Institute- the General Chapter XXIV. Let us pause for a while and examine ourselves if in any way we have not been grateful enough for these many blessings received. We take stock in this time of the year recalling with thanks and recommit with sincere efforts to live this month with greater love in the grace of God and in the company of our Blessed Mother. The GCXXIV has also invited us to walk along with Mary a life-giving presence in our life and mission. May this time of the post chapter journey that we have just started remind us of the constant presence of our Blessed Mother so that as we end the year 2021 and about to begin a new one in a short while, we may become in our own turn life givers to all those whom we encounter in our mission.

As we step into the new month that opens many opportunities of grace and blessing for us in every way, I greet you in particular a very Happy and Fervent Novena of the Immaculate Conception, a fruitful journey of Advent and a fervent Novena in preparation for the solemnity of Christ's birth.

Other important Feasts of the month

03 December -	St. Francis Xavier
05 December -	Blessed Philip Rinaldi
26 December -	St. Stephen
27 December -	Holy Family
28 December -	Holy Innocents



Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception !

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,  
Affectionately,

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