

## EDITORIAL

This Special Issue of our newsletter brings to you the change of Guard in the Province. It is with a deep sense of gratitude to God for the blessings He has bestowed on our province in the last six years that we march ahead on our journey with fortitude. We express our sincere gratitude to Sr. Isabella Suja and her team for the guidance, achievements and developments brought about during her tenure as Provincial. As we begin a new era with Sr. Elizabeth George at the helm of our journey let us remind ourselves of the words of Marsha Petrie Sue, *"Every day is a new beginning. Treat it that way. Stay away from what might have been and look at what can be"*. Furthermore, St. Francis of Assisi tells us: *Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible*.

We entrust ourselves to Mary under the title of Immaculate Heart, Patroness of our province that she may guide and inspire our every initiative.

Sr. Euginia Laloo



Showers of  
Blessings on  
Sr. Elizabeth George  
& the new team

Thank You  
Dear  
Sr. Isabella Suja





## Welcome to the New Provincial

On 5 October 2018 Sr. Elizabeth George, the new Provincial arrived at Auxilium Convent Nongthymmai with cheers of young people who arrayed from the gate till the portico of the house. With colourful balloons in their hands they greeted the new leader of the Province. A solemn welcome was then accorded at the entrance of the house in the presence of all the Animators of the thirty communities of the Province, the Sisters from the nearby communities, Novices and Young people.



Donning on the Provincial the various traditional attires of the place marked the solemn welcome and initiation into the family. She was dressed with the Puan - a mizo lungi, the Nara a traditional waistband worn by women in Karbi Anglong, the Risa of the Tripuris, the Paila - a Khasi necklace, the Kotip - a Garo headgear and was presented a Bouquet of flowers with the names of the communities inscribed on it. All went to the Chapel for a solemn thanksgiving prayer and the melodious chorus of

the Magnificat. The bouquet of flowers was placed at the altar sign of offering every Sister and the entire educating community to the Lord.

Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal, Provincial of Guwahati Province along with many Animators accompanied Sr. Elizabeth from Guwahati. While a group of Sisters from Shillong received Sr. Elizabeth at Mawtnum Community and came up to Shillong.





## Installation of Sr. Elizabeth George

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end. 6 October 2018 witnessed the passing on of a baton of animation from Sr. Isabella Suja to Sr. Elizabeth George. The momentous event was marked with a meaningful ceremony at the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, Archbishop of Shillong.

At the entrance procession, Sr. Elizabeth George approached the altar with a lighted candle symbolizing Christ the light of her journey of animation. Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal, Provincial of Guwahati along with all the former Provincials of both Shillong and Guwahati namely Sr. Ivy D' Souza, Sr. Phyllis Bamon, Sr. Rosa Pyngrope, Sr. Isabella Suja and Sr. Teresa Puthenpurackal accompanied her to the altar. During the homily, Archbishop Jala implored God's blessings on the new Provincial and the team. He also exhorted everyone present to live the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in a tangible way according to the signs of the time. Soon after the homily the ceremony of the Installation began wherein Sr. Isabella Suja read the Decree of nomination and entrusted the animation of the Province to Sr. Elizabeth George. A symbolic action of presenting the new Provincial with a key, which was later placed at the foot of Mary, was a reminder that Mary is the real Superior of the Province and Sr. Elizabeth is her representative in carrying out the mandate entrusted to her. In another expression of unity, support, collaboration, commitment and co-responsibility, representatives from the Sisters, Young People, Candidates, Salesian Co-operators and Past pupils each brought forward a rose and placed it near the key while the assembly sang the hymn entitled, "I entrust them to you". In response to the mandate given to her, Sr. Elizabeth publicly expressed her availability to do God's will and invited everyone to join her in the journey as she counts on the intelligent, responsible and sisterly co-operation of everyone in the Province.



The gathering was blessed by the presence of many Sisters from Guwahati Province. It was indeed a moment of closeness and unity in one big FMA Family in Northeast India. The meaningful liturgy prepared by the community of Nandan Nagar, Agartala and the melodious and devout choir of Auxilium Shillong gave a prayerful and heavenly touch to the day's celebration.





# Felicitations

6 October 2018









## Extract from the first Circular Letter of Sr. Elizabeth George



I greet each one of you affectionately as I take up my responsibility as the 12<sup>th</sup> Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Shillong. Our God is a God of surprises who takes us often by surprise and comes into our life the way He chooses to come. Yet, we know that He is a loving and benevolent Father who does what is best for us, His children. Therefore, I trust God, as I gratefully accept this mandate given to me by the Institute, joining my YES to the FIAT of Mary and the YES that

each one of you has said in faith when the news of my appointment was announced to you. I thank Mother General and her Council for the trust placed on me. The change of leadership every six years calls for a mutual exercise of faith. I believe that with God's help and with the sisterly support of each one of you, I will be able to give my best to the task entrusted to me. I take up this task confidently because it is not 'I alone' but 'we together' who are going to make a difference in whatever we will undertake in the coming years. In other words every one of us is called to play crucial and decisive roles in various capacities for building up God's Kingdom. Here I am reminded of the words of St. Teresa of Kolkata who said: "What I do may be like a little drop in the ocean, but if I fail to do that, the ocean will be less of that drop". We are on a journey together and I welcome everyone to this journey as I count on your intelligent, responsible and sisterly co-operation.

The Province of Shillong is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest of the Indian Provinces and it has given life to the two daughter Provinces of Kolkata and Guwahati. I am extremely grateful to the former Provincials who have made valuable contribution to bring the Province to its present stature. I also acknowledged the unique contribution made by each sister of the province through her hard work and exemplary life.

I am inheriting a legacy of 30 canonically erected communities and 255 professed Sisters who are committed to the mission of the Church and the Institute. I sincerely thank Sr. Isabella Suja who lays down her office gracefully after handing over this rich legacy of human resources to me. Therefore, I believe, my major task would be to support, promote, and

increase the personal and community effectiveness of this rich heritage, quantitatively and qualitatively. We are a significant number and we are blessed with many young vocations. The 24 Postulants who entered the novitiate this year and the 23 Aspirants who are starting their period of Postulancy are clear indications of a vibrant province, blessed numerically with an increasing number of vocations. With such rich blessing from God, we ought to make a qualitative difference and create a significant impact through our life and ministry.

### Thank You Sr. Isabella Suja

A Thanksgiving Day was observed on 4 October 2018 for the marvelous deeds the Lord has done in the Province under the leadership of Sr. Isabella Suja and her team through the Holy sacrifice of the Mass and Felicitation Programme. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai Diocese. Present on the occasion were the Animators of the thirty communities of the Province, the Sisters from the nearby communities, Novices and Young people.

During his homily Bishop Victor recalled the many encounters he had with Sr. Isabella and appreciated her cheerful and thoughtful ways. The Jowai community who prepared the liturgy for the day helped everyone to keep their gaze on the Lord and to one another in gratitude. Soon after the Holy Mass, there was an Evening Programme followed by a delicious meal.







## Extract from the last Circular Letter of Sr. Isabella Suja

Dearest Sisters,

It is with immense gratitude to God and our Blessed Mother that I recount here the wonders and graces received during the six-year tenure of my service in the Province. I have felt the grace of God that accompanies every step I made and the presence of our Blessed Mother who continuously guided every encounter.

I sincerely and personally reached out to you dear sisters to thank each and every one of you for the trust and faith with which you have manifested and for your dedicated collaboration during these 6 years. Your selfless commitment and your unfailing perseverance have been the great pillars of support for this mission. I am indebted to the many prayers and sacrifices you made for the Province. May God continue to bless you all with fruitfulness in your lives and apostolate.

In a very special manner I would like to express my singular gratitude to each and every member of the Provincial Council- Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, Sr. Carmelina Sun, Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoothil, Sr. Cecilia Ksoo, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Sr. Marcellina Sangma and Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew who were my closest collaborators

in this service. I recall with gratitude also Sr. Lilly Kurian who shouldered the responsibility as the Vicar at the very beginning. May you rest in Peace dear Sr. Lilly. Dearest sisters, your collaborating spirit, selfless dedication, your supportive and encouraging attitude have always accompanied and strengthen me throughout these years. I greatly appreciate your generous capacity to share in this service of animation. Notwithstanding the state of health I underwent, you were always there to fill

the gaps all for the sake of the Province's mission. May you be blessed plenteously in your lives and the various endeavors the Lord has entrusted to you. To every animator of the communities, I am grateful for your loyal commitment to the various responsibilities and for stirring the mission with your devoted service and animation. I say a big thank you also to the team members for having shared with creativity and dedication the various responsibilities and activities in the Province. A special note of thanks to Sr. Agatha Shadap for the efforts taken to efficiently carried out the responsibility as the Provincial General Coordinator.

My appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Salesian family especially the Salesian fathers, the Parish Priests with whom we collaborate and all our close collaborators in the various mission of the Province. I owe my thanks for the support and collaboration you have given to our sisters in the various communities and in their activities. I am grateful to the Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils, Benefactors, lay collaborators and friends for your encouraging support in the different apostolate and initiatives. You have added meaning and joy in sharing the charism of our Founders.

I say a big thank you to the Novices, Postulants, Aspirants, Pre-Aspirants and every young person in the Province who are the beacons of hope for our future. Your enthusiasm and prayerful support have always been felt and experienced. Thank you for your joyful presence and your constant support. May the Lord continue to bless you with fidelity in your desire to pursue the dreams of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello and you dear young people may your good aspirations be richly blessed by the Lord.

Once again my heartfelt gratitude to everyone. I wish you the best of everything in your life and mission as we continue the journey with our new Provincial Sr. Elizabeth George. Let us unite our dedicating efforts, our untiring enthusiasm and our loyal collaboration with her to flame into fire the *Da Mihi Animas* of Don Bosco in our Province. May the gifts God has planted in each of you be fully grown for the fruitfulness of our mission and I would like to conclude with the words of Joyce Meyer who said:

*"God has planted greatness in you. Let TODAY be the beginning of a great adventure as you step into the gifts He's given you."*







*Thank You we say!*  
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