



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

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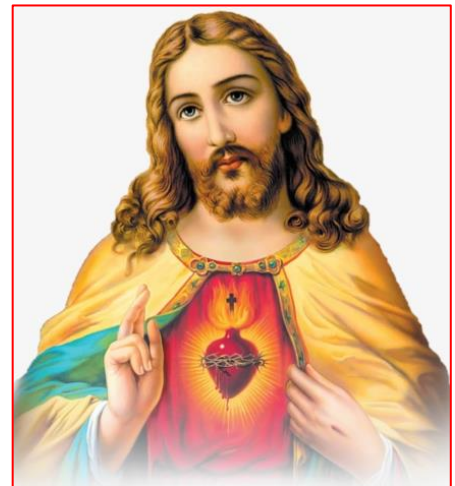
02.06.2022

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We are at the threshold of a month dear to every Christian and especially to the Heart of God, a month that reveals God's great love and compassion for humanity. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is the very essence of the teachings of Jesus who asks us to love one another as He has loved us to the point of giving up his life. The Sacred Heart stands as a powerful symbol of Jesus' humanity. The heart is at its core, representing the very real life of Jesus our Saviour; a heart which was formed in Mary's womb; a heart which beat as he preached the Good News and healed the sick; a heart that was nailed to the cross and was then pierced by the soldiers' lance. Through devotion to the Sacred Heart, each of us can admire true love, the love that Jesus brought to the Cross, the love for which water and blood gushed from his pierced side, a source of eternal salvation for us. It is also the heart that beat once more at the Resurrection and continues to do so for us today- the living, beating heart in which we will always find the comfort, understanding, strength and courage necessary for our salvation.

"God is Love", says St. John and this Love is represented by the Heart of Jesus which is the burning furnace of charity. The Heart of Jesus is the most pure and inexhaustible source of this charity, of this heavenly love. It desires nothing but that the flame of His love expand and inflame more and more for the salvation of humankind. Jesus Himself said *"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!"* (Luke, 12:49). The Heart of Jesus, the human Heart of God-Man, is embraced by the living flame of Trinitarian love, which never goes out. We can say that the Father's Love comes to us through the human and divine Heart of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, by loving the Heart of Christ and, consequently, his whole person, one enters into the Trinitarian Love of God. The Heart of Jesus: burning furnace of charity illumines the darkness of the night.



The Sacred Heart of Jesus was loved and revered by many Saints in the past, by the early Christians and by our very own Saints and founders – Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. When one thinks of Don Bosco, it is easy to immediately associate his figure with that of Mary Help of Christians, but in reality, there was another great love in his life: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Don Bosco was particularly devoted to the Sacred Heart, so much so that, despite his age and weakened health, he accepted Pope

Leo XIII's request to build a church in Rome in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which still stands today as a monument of great devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Reflection on Don Bosco's life allows us to verify to what extent our dear Father and Founder was consciously inspired by the charity of Christ. The solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a feast so dear to Don Bosco and to the Salesian tradition and acquires a singular light on the journey of holiness. Don Bosco had great devotion to the Sacred Heart and this devotion is expressed in his insistence on frequent confession and communion and on participation in daily mass, the pillars that must support the educational system and practice of the Preventive System. Regulations 27 of our FMA Constitutions clearly spells out that the devotion to the Sacred Heart is a living part of our tradition. St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello too had great love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She would often say to the Sisters and others "*We shall meet in the Heart of Jesus*". With the example of her life, she encouraged the sisters, young women in formation and girls to have love and recourse to the Sacred Heart. She would continually exhort them to visit Jesus in the Eucharist and to honour the love of God for us. In her letters to the sisters, she always encouraged them to enter the loving heart of Jesus and place their concerns there, with the certainty of being helped. I quote here few of her exhortations in the letters.

- Letter 17 to Sister Angela Vallese, Animator of the house of Montevideo- Villa Colon, Uruguay, Mother Mazzarello wrote: "*Enter often into the Heart of Jesus, I will go there also, so we can meet often and tell each other many things [...] I leave you in the Heart of Jesus and I pray that He may bless you, make you totally His and keep you always united and cheerful*"
- Letter 65 written to the missionary Sister Ottavia Bussolino, she says: "*Courage, when you are tired and troubled go and place all your worries in the Heart of Jesus, and there you will find solace and comfort.*"

As we spend this month in loving reverence of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – a Heart full of Love, Mercy and Compassion especially on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart (24 June 2022), let us be assured of the unconditional love of God for us, for his heart is a heart that loves us personally and beyond measure. Let us be convinced that Jesus loved us and loves us divinely with a human and divine heart. This unity in him, unimaginable for us, between divine and human nature makes us at least understand that the love of his human heart has no boundaries. He loved them to the end (Jn 13: 1). Let us immerse ourselves in this boundless love to learn, to also receive something of this love that always surpasses us in all situations, which sometimes seems unattainable, sometimes even unjustifiable in the face of our betrayals and which, instead, always returns to be the first: "I loved you first".

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Just as the Sacred Heart is the symbol of Jesus' love for us, so too the Immaculate Heart of Mary indicates her maternal love for us. The feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary recognizes the purity of Mary's heart to compliment her Son's Sacred Heart. The Heart of Mary is full of Jesus, the Heart of Mary who deserved to conceive in herself through such exemplary faith the eternal Word of the Father before she conceived him in her virginal womb. She conceived the Word by the power of the Holy Spirit and thus her body became a living tabernacle containing the Incarnate Son of God. Mary maintained her purity not only physically, but more so spiritually. She accepted everything in faith and obeyed the will of the Father.



Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She did so too after she found the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2,5 1). In the pure heart of the Mother of God, the wonders of God's revelation to her people were preserved. Mary experienced that there is nothing more precious than the living memory of the life with Jesus in Nazareth, following him during His journey of evangelization and above all participating in the mystery of His passion, death and resurrection. She kept all these things in her heart which revealed to her, how much her Son had lived, died and risen for a love without measure. All the strength, the richness, and the depth of love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary lies in this Mystery which signifies salvation for us.

We are privileged to have the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the patroness of our Province. As we celebrate the name feast of our Province, we are invited to look into ourselves through Mary's heart and check if her virtues are leading and accompanying us in our life and mission. There are innumerable events and instances in Mary's life that are beyond her knowledge and understanding. However, she never doubted the wisdom of God's plan for her and for the entire humanity. She understood fully well God's will in her life and precisely because of this, she never complained nor questioned whatever was happening to her. She just believed and obeyed God with a heart full of humility, Faith and love. Her sinless heart was the source in which she kept alive the memory of the great and mighty deeds that God had done in her life and for humanity throughout history. Mary inspires us to keep our hearts free of sin and set our ideals on God and not on other things that may leave our hearts empty and unfulfilled. On 25 June, as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the name feast of our Province and of our Novitiate at Bellefonte, let us pray to Mary that she may help to stir our hearts and enflame them with greater love for God. May she teach us to serve the Lord more faithfully, to love him more convincingly and to give ourselves to him unreservedly.

Family News and Communications

Second Month preparation for the 150 years: The whole FMA World is celebrating the second month of Triduum in preparation for the 150 years of the Institute's foundation and we are invited to reflect this month of June on the '*The Trinitarian Horizon in Our Constitutions*'. The Institute calls us to reflect much on the aspect of love that is '*always free, profound, tender and creative.*' The proposal for this month's reflection says "*God's love is a dynamism that pushes towards others. The movement is that of openness: it is, therefore, a matter of going out, going beyond, widening the circle, creating a network involving an ever-larger*



number of people. It is by loving one's brothers and sisters that one reciprocates God's love. Fraternal love is the place where Jesus continues to make himself present. The Christian community thus becomes an epiphany, an extension, an irradiation, a "sign and expression" of Jesus' love". Let us

spend this month of preparation in profound reflection of the need to love in love and communion so as to reflect concretely the aspect of the Trinitarian communion in our life and mission. As a reminder for the preparation, we are invited to reflect on the following:

- Jn 13:34–35
- FMA Constitutions Art. 49
- Fratelli tutti no. 93-94
- Mother Mazzarello's Letter 37

Congratulations: We extend our heartiest congratulations and prayerful assurance to Sr. Martha Séide FMA from Haiti who is appointed by Pope Francis as the Consultant of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Vatican. Sr. Martha is currently professor of Educational Theology at the Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium" of the Salesian Sisters in Rome. The Congregation for Catholic Education has the task of studying, developing, and promoting the fundamental principles of Catholic education proposed by the Magisterium of the Church, also in the context of civil society. The appointment of Sister Martha Séide FMA is at the same time a great act of confidence by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, towards the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Faculty of Educational Sciences " Auxilium", Rome. We support Sr. Martha with our prayers in this noble mission at the service of the Church.

New Indian Cardinals: On 30 May 2022, Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa and Daman and Archbishop Anthony Poola of Hyderabad as the new cardinals for the Church. We support them with our prayers in this noble mission in the Church.

Seminar: There will be a seminar on "***Midlife Transition and Spirituality***" at FMA Outreach from 18-20 June 2022 for the perpetually professed sisters of profession years 2000-2009. We are grateful to Sr. Philomena D'Souza FMA of Mumbai Province who has consented to be the resource person for this seminar. We welcome her to the Province and we wish that these input sessions may enkindle greater passion in our mission and deeper commitment in our religious consecration. The participants are requested to arrive at FMA Outreach on 17 June 2022.

[*N. B*: *Kindly confirm your participation and send your names latest by 8th of June 2022. Animators within this group are exempted*]

Welcome back Home: We are very happy to welcome back to the Province Sr. Darisuk Shabong and Sr. Monaliza Kharnaier who completed their intensive juniorate at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. They returned to the Province on 31 May 2022. I would like to thank Sr. Alphonsa Kurisingal, Provincial of Guwahati Province, Sr. Lydia Komuhra, the Animator of the Provincial House and all the inmates of the community who have accompanied our sisters during their intense year of formation. May the Lord bless each of them and their mission.

Student Sisters: Some sisters of our Province will be sent for various updating courses and studies this year among whom few will be pursuing their studies in Rome. We wish these sisters God's blessings and good luck in their preparation and formation for the future mission of the Province.

- Sr. Maria Quinta Wankhar for the Formators' Course at Casa Valse, Rome.
- Sr. Lucia Syiem for the Spirituality Course at Casa Canta, Rome
- Sr. Credit Dkhar and Sr. Ewarlin Dhar for Auxilium, Rome.

Candidates Meet 2022: The Candidates Meet for our Novices, Postulants and Aspirants will be held from 3-5 June 2022 at FMA Outreach, Shillong. The formation sector will coordinate and animate these days of encounter. We pray for our candidates that this coming together will enthuse them with greater passion and eagerness to offer their lives to God in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. As part of the programme, they will also make a trip to the first house of the province- St. Mary Mazzarello, Jowai. Let us support them with our prayers in their journey of discerning and answering God's call.

National Seminar: Three sisters from our Province – Sr. Agatha Shadap, Sr. Rosamystica Myliemumlong and Sr. Ribhalin Khyriem are attending a National Seminar – Quest for a Christian Tribal Philosophy and Theology organized by the CBCI Office for Tribal Affairs from 1-4 June 2022 at Mathias Institute, Shillong.

National Education Co-ordinators Meet: There will be a National Conference of Educators from 3-5 June 2022 at Citadel, Chennai on the theme “Enlighten, Empower and Educate” organized by the PCI - Education Sector. Sr. Joplin Suchiang, Sr. Bashisha Massar and Sr. Merciful Nongsiej will participate in it. We wish them all the best and a fruitful outcome of the seminar.

International Conference: There will be the XII VIDES International Conference in Rome from 1-5 July 2022. All the Social Development Coordinators are invited to take part in it. From our Province Sr. Helen Puwein will participate. We wish her and all the Social Development Coordinators of FMA India all the best and a fruitful participation in the conference.

Second Novitiate - Second Phase: The Second phase of the Second Novitiate will be held at FMA Outreach from 1 July 2022. Sr. Ribhalin Khyriem will coordinate the programme. We wish our Sisters all the best and God's blessings in this intense preparation for their final commitment to God. The sisters of the second novitiate are requested to arrive at the venue on 30 June 2022. Let us intensify our prayers for these 16 sisters of ours in this very important phase of their religious life. I thank Sr. Ribhalin, Sr. Happyline Shadap and the community of FMA Outreach and all the resource persons and sisters who will enlighten and accompany our sisters with the various input sessions. God bless them all.

Prayers for the sick and the departed

We extend our prayerful support to all the sick ones through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother especially for our sick sisters, relatives of our Sisters and members of the Salesian Family. We pray in particular for:

- The Father of Sr. Iris Suchiang
- The Mother of Sr. Lini Fenylla Shabong
- The Mother and younger sister of Sr. Aitihun Lawai
- The Sister of Sr. Wanplisha Pyngrope
- The brother of Sr. Magdalene Synnah
- All relatives of our Sisters.

We offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all those who lost their dear ones:

- Sr. Meldaris Syiemlieh at the demise of her father on 3 May 2022.

- Sr. Iris Suchiang at the demise of her mother on 11 May 2022.
- Sr. Kyrkhu Sutnga at the passing away of her brother on 15 May 2022.
- Sr. Nirmala Lazar and the Sisters of Chennai Province (INM) at the passing away of Sr. Anthony Agnes FMA on 25 May 2022.
- Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva and the Sisters of Mumbai Province (INB) at the departure of Sr. Sylvia Philomena Fernandez on 26 May 2022.
- Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Dimapur Province (IND) at the passing away of Fr Joseph Variathukalayil on 9 May 2022.
- Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Mumbai Province (INB) at the demise of Fr Bernard Fernandes SDB on 24 May 2022.
- All the members of the Salesian Family who have departed from this world during the past month.

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.

Feasts of the month

05 June - Pentecost

12 June - Holy Trinity

13 June - Bl. Francis Kesy and Companions

19 June - Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

29 June – Saints Peter and Paul

As I conclude, I wish each of you a very fervent month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. May this month be a reminder of the tender and compassionate love of God for us and an invitation to move closer to His heart of Love. May the Love of Christ motivate us to move to greater heights of holiness as reiterated Saint Pope John Paul II in 1984 *“In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. The Heart of the Lord Jesus is the starting-point of the holiness of each one of us. From the Heart of the Lord Jesus let us learn the love of God and understanding of the mystery of sin. Let us make acts of reparation to the Divine Heart for the sins committed by us and by our fellow men. Let us make reparation for rejecting God’s goodness and love. Let us draw close each day to this fount from which flow springs of living water.”*

*Happy Feast of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus and
Immaculate Heart of Mary!*



With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,
Affectionately,

Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial