



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/50/2022

01.09.2022

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We are on the eve of a momentous and historic event of our mission in India – the Centenary Celebration of our FMA presence. It is indeed an appropriate moment to thank God with a profound sense of humility, recognizing the wonders He did in our life and mission in these 100 years of glorious history. We owe our gratitude to our past Superiors who with a prophetic vision saw the planting of the Salesian Charism in this far distant land way back in 1922. We salute our pioneers who with undaunted faith have crossed the oceans and vastness of the distance ‘home away from home’ to come and spread the message of God’s love in the Spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. In these 3 years of preparation for this great event, as FMA India we have reflected, studied, researched and searched together ways and means to bring us back to the source of our origins in our motherland. We have had ample opportunities to explore together as FMA India and as individual Provinces and communities the humble beginnings of our presence in India through various means that were offered to us - prayer moments, celebrations of every type, seminars, webinars, competitions, exposures., etc. At every instance, we have experienced the hand of God at work to this very day. We witnessed and continue to witness the guiding hands of our Blessed Mother leading us through every stage of our existence and growth.



We can proudly say that the journey we have made from 1922- 2022 is indeed a spectacular testimony of God’s love and fidelity. The theme that has guided our preparation for this celebration “**With Mary through the course of the century and beyond**” is indeed an evident proclamation of our Blessed Mother’s faithful accompaniment on our journey. The 10 decades of history and active story of our Charism in India is marked by God’s providential love in every sphere and the constant and maternal care of Mary at every stage of life and mission. We elevate our hearts in gratitude to God for the abundance of His blessings and for the sanctifying grace that has accompanied our pioneers, missionaries and everyone to this day. With great respect and gratitude, we remember our 6

pioneers who were instruments and channels of God's blessings to our land. We pray for them as they look upon us with love from the Heavenly abode.

Our first missionaries courageously came all the way across the sea to announce the "Good News" to many people, especially the poor. They came without a second thought of turning away from their vision and goal. The great passion and zeal that they have lived since the beginning of our mission has borne today the abundant fruits of youthful vocations, countless activities and promising apostolate on behalf of youth and the poor in all the 7 Provinces of India. The celebration of such a landmark today in the history of our Institute and our mission underlines the important aspect of appreciating the rich legacy we have inherited from our Pioneers with a deep sense of gratitude; and an occasion to inflame our hearts with a contagious passion for the mission as that of our pioneers who crossed all barriers and stood against all odds in order that the Charism and Spirit of our holy founders Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello may take deeper roots in the Indian soil. This centenary is also a moment of great inspiration for every one of us who carry forward this legacy to embrace the gift of our vocation with great sense of love, unwavering hope and selfless generosity to pass on the patrimony entrusted to us to the future generations. We hope and believe that the celebration of the centenary will stimulate our passion in following Christ and revitalize our missionary ardour in honour and gratitude for our first pioneers and missionaries. A group of us will be witnessing the grand celebration at Katpadi on 3 September 2022. While many will definitely participate in spirit and communion through means of Prayer and social media. In any form, let us celebrate this momentous event with great passion and audacity to be the caretakers of a great legacy that is entrusted to our care. We implore God's blessings upon the Sisters of Chennai Province who will host this mega celebration; we pray for God's blessings upon our dear Mother General and sisters of the General Council who are part of this celebration and for every member of FMA India. May our Blessed Mother continue to lead and guide us and our mission through our journey towards the post centennial phase and more. Along with me, the following Sisters will be participating in the Celebration at Katpadi. We will leave on 2 September 2022.

1. Sr. Isabella Suja
2. Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem
3. Sr. Celina Maslai
4. Sr. Alphonsa Latam
5. Sr. Ibaniewkor Warjri
6. Sr. Joplin Suchiang
7. Sr. Lucy R Marak
8. Sr. Olda Mary Shangpliang
9. Sr. Risalin M Kharkongor
10. Sr. Theresa Phawa
11. Sr. Wandakashisha Wahlang
12. A group of 3 Salesian Cooperators and 3 Past Pupils

We are blessed to have the presence of our dearest and beloved Mother General- Mother Chiara Cazzuola along with few members of the General Council – Sr. Runita Borja, Sr. Maria Del Pillar Ruth and Sr. Celine Jacob. May their presence bring much blessing to our mission in India and rejuvenation of our Spirit and enthusiasm. We also pray for their good health and fruitfulness of their mission. A hearty welcome dear Mother and Sisters of the General Council.



Welcome dearest Mother and Sisters



The Nativity of Mary

The birth of the Virgin Mary is an occasion to celebrate God's fidelity and faithful promises that he implemented within human history and history of salvation. In celebrating Mary's nativity, we fix our gaze on her to allow ourselves to be illuminated by the light of God and to be able to see that future of salvation that He wants for humanity. As believers, we are motivated to ask ourselves how capable we are of looking at the events of today's world in this perspective? How willing are we to commit ourselves to be, like her, the abode in which God makes himself present today for the salvation of humanity and of the world? This feast of the Nativity of Mary which has a long history of celebration in the Church reminds us too of our vocation to be holy and immaculate, following the example of Mary Most Holy.

In Mary, God recreates a new humanity that will prove faithful to him in everything and for everything. The birth of Mary restores to us the figure of perfect humanity, in her immaculate human conception, wonderfully corresponding to the creative idea of God. God continues to write his history, a plan of salvation for humanity that passes through reconciliation and peace to make humanity one family. The feast of Mary's Nativity reminds us today that we are called to become God's home -a house made of "flesh", that is, people who become the dwelling of God, who believe in the Word of God which becomes humanity.



Season of Creation

The Season of Creation (September 1- October 4) is a yearly event that always draws the attention and celebration of the whole world. Care for the Earth, Love for Nature, Preserve and Care for our Common home, etc... are few of the many expressions that call for our attention and necessary action in the face and reality of the world and the Universe that is being harmed and gradually murdered by the cruel acts of human hands. The celebration of the season of Creation allows us to penetrate into the depth of God's love for humanity and to recognize ourselves as the custodians of a great legacy to be protected and preserved. We are duty bound to care, to protect, to preserve and promote the diversity of our planet earth- our common home. Ecological Conversion is a cry and need of the hour. Pope Francis continually invites the Church to this type of conversion- to respect and care for creation in all aspects. Our General Chapter XXIV also powerfully invites the whole Institute to this conversion that leads to a transformation of hearts and lives and that is geared towards a more holistic approach that cares and loves more- God, each other, and creation.



Listen to the Voice of creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The proposed theme for this year's celebration is: "**Listen to the voice of creation**" with the symbol of the Burning Bush "*I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...Come, now! I will send you... I will be with you*" (Ex 3, 1-12). Let us actively participate in the celebration in unison with the Church to listen to many unheard voices especially those muted in

public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping. The Youth Pastoral of our Province under the leadership of Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew has sent the invitation for the online celebration of the Season of Creation together with our young people on 3rd September at 6.30pm. All those who are able to participate in this celebration kindly take part in it in order to encourage our young people to be the prominent defenders and custodians of our common home. [*Kindly refer to the invitation sent by the sector for the detailed programme*].

Congratulations

VSDB Superior General: We extend our heartiest congratulations and prayerful assurance to Sr. Mabel Dhar VSDB who was elected as the 5th Superior General of the congregation on 29 August 2022. We pray for her noble mission of governing the Congregation along with her Council members – Sr. Cecilia Sad VSDB (Vicar General) and other Councillors- Sr. Kasiini Auxilia Mao, Sr. Ridalin Mawlong and Sr. Justina Kahit.

Life time Award: To mark the great event of the 100 years of Blessings of FMA India presence in India, the PCI has proposed to give a life time award to one member of all the Provinces for the remarkable contribution made to the growth of the mission.



Sometime ago I had asked all the communities to suggest a name among our sisters to receive this award and the Province has found Sr. Linda Horne to be the right recipient for the centenary award. We appreciate her for the laborious and courageous passion to move out to reach the people who are in need especially the most vulnerable and poor people of the society. All of us testify to the fruits of her work and passion on behalf of poor young people in particular. We congratulate her and wish her the best in life as she continues to reach out to many young people in need.

Family News and Communications

Happy Mission: Our 4 Sisters - Sr. Maria Quinta Wankhar, Sr. Lucia Syiem, Sr. Credit Dkhar and Sr. Ewarlin Dhar have left the Province for Rome on 31 August 2022. We wish them God's blessings and accompaniment of our Blessed Mother in their mission and life in Italy. And we wish them a fruitful and an enriching experience of their stay at the Centre.

Spiritual Retreat of Candidates: The Retreat of the Aspirants and would be Postulants will be held at Auxilium, Saiden from 8-12 September 2022. It will be preached by Fr. Steve MC. We assure them of our prayerful remembrance as they spend this time of personal encounter with God and in rediscovering God's holy plan for them.

Welcome Back: We are glad to welcome back home our dear Sr. Maria Roibok Suchiang who is returning after the completion of her studies in Rome. She will arrive in the Province on 9 September 2022. We wish her too God's blessings as she will assume the responsibility in the Community of Saiden as the Assistant of the Postulants.

Mission Experience: As I had communicated earlier, Sr. Ba-i-thiang Sten has gone to the Province of Kolkata on 25 August 2022 to render her service in the Province. We assure her of our remembrance and prayerful support in this mission that she has assumed in INC.

Transfer: Due to the call and need of the mission, the following Sisters are transferred to the respective communities after the official transfer list was sent out in July 2022.

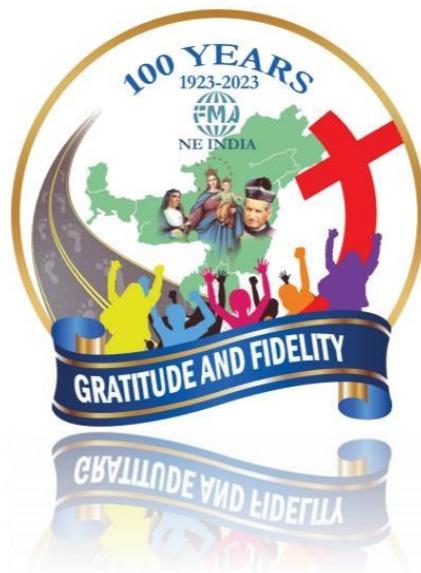
1. Sr. Anjelyne Thongni - Nandan Nagar
2. Sr. Catherine Sutnga - Nongstoiñ
3. Sr. Madona Lytep - Bellefonte
4. Sr. Rina Nongkynrih - Chapahati

I appreciate and thank them for their generous availability for the mission and may God bless and reward them with fruitfulness in their mission.

Spiritual Retreat and Salesian Family Meet: After the centenary celebrations at Katpadi, I will be making my spiritual retreat together with Sr. Alphonsa Kurinsinkal, Provincial of Guwahati and Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, Provincial of Kolkata at Benaulim, Goa. I assure you of my prayers and remembrance during these days of encounter with God in prayer. I recommend myself to your prayers too that we may have an enriching time in God's presence. After the retreat, there will be the meeting of the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family which will be held at St. Joseph Vas Spiritual Renewal

Centre, Old Goa from 13-15 September 2022. I will also pay a visit to Nashik to meet our 2 First year Novices- Sr. Banrikynti Iawphniaw and Sr. Mary Aquiline Nongsiej. I will be away from the Province for about a month. In my absence, therefore, please consult Sr. Carmelina Sun, our Vice Provincial in case of need.

Centenary Committee: We will soon enter into the centenary year of the arrival of our Pioneers to North East India (1923-2023) and conclusion of the 100 years of FMA Presence in India. To facilitate the better organization of the celebrations, the Province in the meeting held with the Provincial Council, Animators, Economers and Heads of Schools in the month of August constituted the Committee that will gear the management of the celebrations in collaboration with the Provincial Council. Let us continue to thank God for His goodness, love and fidelity shown through our pioneers and missionaries that has brought us gloriously to this milestone of 100 years. May I remind all the communities to live this time as a moment of gratitude uniting in communion by praying daily the prayer that has been already given to each of you personally.



I thank the following Sisters for their generosity to shoulder this responsibility of coordinating the programme and celebrations to mark and celebrate the glorious moment of our history.

1. General Coordinator: Sr. Joplin Suchiang

COORDINATORS OF SUB COMMITEES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. Finance | : Sr. Margaret Kharmuti |
| 3. Programme | : Sr. Teresa Phawa |
| 4. Media & Publicity | : Sr. Euginia Laloo +Media Sector |
| 5. Liturgy & Singing | : Sr. Luigina Duia |
| 6. Memento & Invitation | : Sr. Jenney Iawphniaw |
| 7. Decoration+ Pandal | : Sr. Teresa Kamsuan |
| 8. Food Department | : Sr. Carmelina Sun |
| 9. Transport Service | : Sr. Helen Puwein |
| 10. Accommodation | : Sr. Happyline Shadap |
| 11. Electricity | : Auxilium, Nongthymmai |
| 12. PA System | : Auxilium, Nongthymmai |
| 13. Volunteers | : Sr. Joplin Suchiang |
| 14. VIPs | |
| <i>Government Officials</i> | |
| <i>Special Invitees</i> | |
| 15. Medical and Health | : Sr. Helen Puwein |
| | : Sr. Dorothy Kharduit |

Education and Finance Councils: To cope up with the growing demands of our mission in the contemporary society, the Assembly held in August 2022 proposed the names of sisters who could form the Education and Finance Councils of the Province. The Provincial Council took into consideration this important issue and after having studied the various aspects and requirements of the mission, decided to choose few sisters from among the ones proposed to spearhead the 2 Committees for the smooth running and fruitfulness of our mission in line with the signs of the times. I thank the Sisters who accepted this noble mandate on behalf of the Province. God bless each of them with a fruitful mission. May I request all the communities to collaborate with them in their direction and guidance for the good and growth of our mission.

Education Committee

1. Sr. Joplin Suchiang
2. Sr. Lydia Pala
3. Sr. Teresa Phawa
4. Sr. Bashisha Massar
5. Sr. Merciful Nongsiej
6. Sr. Mary Lamare
7. Sr. Manoda Sangma

Finance Council

1. Sr. Gemima Pohrmen
2. Sr. Margaret Kharmuti
3. Sr. Helen Puwein
4. Sr. Garnet Sutnga

A note of Thanks

I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Fr. James Thyrmiang SDB, the Provincial Economist of Shillong Province who along with Mr. Libianta Suchiang, his collaborator enlightened, motivated and helped our Province for a more fruitful and more effective mission in the field of finance and administration. I express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Provincial Economist for the keen interest taken to organize the resource persons and for enlightening our sisters in the different sessions with the various trends of the society's rules and regulations for a smooth and better running of our mission. The seminar has opened wider prospects of knowledge and awareness. I request everyone to take seriously whatever knowledge we have gathered and as already decided in our meeting to comply with the certain requirements of the mission and to keep updated the various documents and needs pertaining to the required regulations.



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 our sick sisters, relatives of our Sisters and members of the Salesian Family. We pray in particular for:

- The Father of Sr. Wanrilang Kharkongor
- The Father of Sr. Wankyrkhu Biam
- All our sisters who are recuperating after the operation and hospitalization
- All relatives of our Sisters.

We offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all those who lost their dear ones in the month of August:

- Sr. Theodosia Mawniuh at the demise of her mother on 9 August 2022.
- Sr. Maria Quinta Wankhar at the passing away of her mother on 13 August 2022
- Sr. Rosilin Wahlang at the departure of her father on 13 August 2022.
- Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang at the demise of her mother on 24 August 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

- 01 September – World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 05 September – St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata/ Teachers’ Day
- 08 September – Nativity of Mary and Girl Child Day
- 14 September – Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 September – Our Lady of Sorrows
- 22 September – Blessed Maria Carmen Moreno & Amparo Carbonell
- 29 September – Archangels

As I conclude this Circular, I would like to greet everyone a **Happy Feast of all Teachers** which we will celebrate on 5 September. A special note of appreciation and festal greetings to all our Sisters who are engaged directly in the school ministry and also to everyone who in one way or another is involved in the educative mission of our Institute. We salute all teachers who painstakingly mould and shape the lives of many young people, the future hope of the Society and the Church. While extending our warm greetings to all educators, it is a privileged occasion to recall to our minds the exhortation of our Holy Founder Don Bosco for Salesian Educators. Don Bosco simply loved in educating youth for which he was able to say convincingly “*Education is a matter of the heart*”. He gives us the practical guidelines and directions on the education which we classify as “**the 5 Keys to a good education**” and which are for us the fundamental ingredients for a fruitful educative mission.

1. *Transform children into “Good Christians and Honest Citizens”*
2. *Boost Self-confidence and trust in others*
3. *Let children know they are loved*
4. *Never forget fun and games*
5. *And above all teach about Grace*

Providentially, this great celebration coincides also with the feast of St. Mother Teresa, whom we can term as the great teacher in the art of Loving. Notwithstanding religion, caste, or creed, she just loved everyone unconditionally. She is an overwhelming teacher who taught us more by her life and example. May these giant saints and educators of Love- St. John Bosco and St. Mother Teresa inspire us each day to give ourselves unreservedly and with great love and passion in educating the young people and all those who are entrusted to our care in the different areas of life.

*"Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things with great love"*
[St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata]



With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Elizabeth George FMA".

Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial