



Provincial Circular

Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/52/2022

03.11.2022

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

We have entered the month of November with two important Christian celebrations: the solemnity of all the saints, in which we all rejoice in the Lord, accompanied by the Angels and the Saints and the commemoration of all the faithful departed which reminds us of the hope and reality of eternal life. The two liturgical feasts are not simply chronological events, but rather two important realities that help us to rediscover the essence and beauty of Christian faith, the genuineness of our being Church, of being an assembly and a communion of all the Saints - a communion born of love, a communion of life among all those who belong to Christ. These feasts invite us to renew our Christian hope and gives us the strength and meaning to face and live the demands of our daily life. With the feast of All Saints and the commemoration of the departed, the Church puts before our eyes witnesses of hope to look up to: they are the saints and our loved ones who have passed through the earthly journey and moved on to the glorious happiness of eternal life. The two liturgical events give us the assurance not to be afraid of what will happen after the earthly life. Therefore, the month of November reminds and invites us to this reality that everyone is called to live - to a life of holiness that would unite us in communion with all the saints at the end of this life.



The saints who have gained the crown of Paradise and our dear ones who have passed on to the other side of the world were ordinary Christians like any of us. They have lived, supported by a great faith and the hope that living for love does not mean wasting existence but making it happen for eternity. There are some saints that we find in the calendar but there are also the saints that we have had closest to us; those that Pope Francis, with a happy expression, called "the saints next door". If we stop for a moment to remember the travel companions, we have had in life, we almost certainly recognize that some little saint was close to us

who had a firm faith, who consumed oneself in the daily gift of oneself and who was always serene, despite the hardships and trials of life. Perhaps some of these saints we also had in the family, among our close relatives or friends, among our religious communities and in the mission. They made us breathe true hope because they lived convinced that their existence was not reduced to a few years in this world but had the most beautiful and eternal part beyond death, in eternal communion with God the Father, with the Risen Jesus, with Mary and with all the saints. They had discovered the only hope that does not perish. These are the people who have passed through “the great tribulation and have washed their garments making them white with the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev.7,14.) Scripture teaches us that Holiness is the gift of God to his people (cf. Ex. 19, 5-6) In fact St. Paul called the Romans: “beloved of God and saints by vocation.” (Rom. 1, 7) The Church herself in the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Baptism, through the action of the Holy Spirit, purifies, sanctifies and justifies us. Every Christian is therefore called to holiness, to participate in that gift that God has given us through Christ Jesus since the day of Baptism! Our Sainly Mother Mazzarello would constantly remind us too through her letters and exhortations of the fundamental responsibility to become saints in the daily circumstances of life doing the ordinary things in an extraordinary way.



Paraphrasing from the wisdom of Mother Mazzarello, we can say that the universal call to holiness affirms the possibility that something extraordinary may happen in the ordinary life of every person to participate in the divine life. In fact, holiness is communion with God that begins in this earthly life with the gift of Baptism, which grows in the path of grace throughout earthly existence and which will definitively be fulfilled in the glory of heaven as already enjoyed by the Saints in heaven and those who have preceded us

from this earthly life. Therefore, we can claim that Holiness is already owned by us but is still awaiting its full maturation which however depends on each of us how to attain it. Contemplating on the various opportunities to reflect on the call to holiness in this month of November, we are invited to rediscover the fact that Holiness is also what every Christian and every one of us hope to achieve. We achieve this not by relying on our own strength, but by trusting in the mercy of God and the merits of Jesus Christ and allowing ourselves to be moulded by the Holy Spirit.

The month of November hence gives us ample opportunities to reflect on this specific call and vocation to holiness drawing example from the saints and all those who have preceded us. We are encouraged then to live this month as a reminder to follow our vocation with greater love and conviction as a preparation for our eternal life with greater hope and faith as the Saints in Heaven would encourage us today: ‘Do not stop, look to eternity, look at what God has given you, look at

the Lord Jesus and walk, because you are not made for the world, you are made and loved for heaven, for Paradise and glory.’

Novena of the Immaculate Conception

This month we have before us the perfect example of holiness and purity in the person of our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception whose Novena we will begin towards the end of this month. Regulations 30 of our Constitutions reminds us that we ought to prepare for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with a Novena and the corresponding article 44 calls us to contemplate in Mary the fullness of her self-giving to God and neighbours. The Immaculate Virgin is the model of silent holiness, the holiness of small daily acts performed with love, which touch the heart of our neighbor. Let us imitate her by placing ourselves at her school during the days of preparation for the solemnity.

For the Novena, the Salesian Family Sector, Rome has prepared the animation which will begin on **26 November 2022** heeding to the invitation of Mother General in Circular 1022 to prepare for the solemnity with a representation of the educating community from around the globe in this significant year of the 150th anniversary of the Institute’s foundation. with the objective as stated by Mother General in her Circular *“the preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in this jubilee year is meant to be an expression of gratitude to Mary, prolonged in the concreteness of the life of the individual Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and of the educating communities around the world, who will be represented by 12 stars. At the end of the novena, in this year so significant for the whole Institute, Mary will be crowned with the 12 stars. In order to be able to carry out the novena as it is intended, we will begin it on November 26th.”* Kindly read the letter attached along for deeper explanation and better preparation for the solemnity. The materials for the novena can also be downloaded from the Institute’s website. I wish everyone a fervent Novena for the Immaculate Conception and may our Blessed Mother intercede powerfully for us especially that we may live with greater enthusiasm the call to Holiness of life.



Family News and Communications

God’s Blessings and Bon Voyage: I would like to communicate that Sr. Celine D’Cunha will leave India in the very early hours of 4 November 2022 for the new mission that the Lord has entrusted to her at Concesio, Italy. I would like to sincerely express once again my appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Celine for what she has done and contributed for the growth of the Province in various capacities. We thank God for her life of fidelity, enthusiasm and generous service rendered with



much love and interest for the growth of the mission. We implore God's abundant blessings upon her that her mission may be fruitful and that she may continue to be a blessing to the people and the mission entrusted to her care. We wish her a safe journey and all the best for the mission in service of the Institute.

100 years of Salesian Charism in North East India: We have lived the moments of grace and blessing during the celebration of the Centenary of the presence of Salesian Charism in North East India which was culminated with the celebration from 26-30 October 2022 in Shillong. We have experienced and lived the joy and the privilege of belonging to the Salesian Family with much nostalgia for the past, enthusiasm for the present and hope for the future. The youth Expo which was a significant part of the celebration brought together the youth animators and delegates from the different Salesian Parishes and institutions offering them an unforgettable experience of Salesian Family Spirit. The exhibition by the various groups of the Salesian Family highlighting "Recall, Relive and Relaunch" was a creative presentation of the Past, Present and Future of the Salesian Charism in North East India. The meeting of the members of the Salesian Family with our Rector Major has boosted our spirit to live with greater passion and fidelity the spirit and charism of Don Bosco. We congratulate the Provincials and the confreres of the three Salesians Provinces of Shillong, Guwahati and Dimapur for the meticulous and well-coordinated plan of the grand finale which was carried out with lot of perfection, giving opportunities for the Salesian Family to be fully involved and the platform for young people to exhibit their talents. The concluding Mass on 30 October 2022 was celebrated with great solemnity by his Eminence Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal and concelebrated by Rector Major and a good number of Salesians and other priests. We wish the SDBs and the Salesian Family many more years of fruitful service to the people of North East India.

Don Bosco amidst us: We had the privilege and blessing of the visit of our beloved Rector Major Don Ángel Fernández Artime SDB on the 29th October 2022 during his visit to Shillong on the Centenary Year of the arrival of the SDB missionaries to North East India. Many of our sisters, Novices and young people were present on that day for the meeting with the Rector Major at Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai- Shillong. Those of us who were present for the talk would certainly agree with me to say that the Rector Major has exhorted us with much passion and desire that we live the spirit of our founders and the original freshness of our charism with greater

passion and visibility to the world particularly in this part of our country. He also stressed on the need to live fraternity as an essential part of religious life. With the heart of a father, he wishes to see that we are religious filled with the fulness of Salesian joy and



inner peace that will be radiated on our faces and that becomes contagious to all those whom we encounter in our life and mission particularly the young people. In his written message that he left for our Province, the Rector Major implored God's blessings upon all of us in our journey of charismatic fidelity and that our Blessed Mother may continue to walk with us as she did at Nizza.

We are grateful to our Rector Major for his visit that has brought much blessings to each of us personally and to our Province. We are also grateful to Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB, the Provincial of Shillong Province and his council for making these arrangements for the visit of our Rector Major. The visit of Don Bosco himself in the person of Rector Major will remain vivid and indelible from our hearts and from the history of our Province, but I am sure his wish, his desire and his encouragement will live on with us and the generations to come if we follow his exhortations to live authentically our Salesian vocation and our call to be the living monuments of Don Bosco's gratitude to our Blessed Mother.

Online Meeting Centenary Celebrations: On 22 October 2022, we had the online meeting of the representatives of our Province and the Provinces of ING and INC with regards to the animation programme for the Centenary celebrations of the arrival of our 6 FMA missionaries to North East India. It was a very fruitful meeting in which we were able to chalk out few guidelines which we will take up together for the immediate preparations. I sincerely thank Sr. Alphonsa Kurisingal and Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, Provincials of ING and INC respectively and the sisters who participated and contributed actively for the fruitfulness of the meeting. On 11-12 November 2022, a core group consisting of 3 representatives from each Province will meet at Auxilium Provincial House Guwahati for further planning. From our Province, Sr. Rosina Susngi, Sr. Helen Puwein and Sr. Lucy Marak will participate in it. Kindly may I request everyone to collaborate with them in their proposals so that the immediate preparations and celebration of the centenary may be a significant one.

In gratitude for the 100 years of Blessings: On 24 November 2022 which also marks the 69th birthday of our Province, we will celebrate exactly the 100 years of the arrival of our 6 valiant FMA Missionaries to India. It is indeed a moment of gratitude to God to thank him for the tiny seed that has grown in all spheres today. We are grateful to God for the seed of Charism that has spread to all corners of our Motherland from the indomitable passion of our 6 brave and courageous pioneers. Today, celebrating the glorious memory of what has been accomplished in these 100 years and for what God has

done through us in these 10 decades, is an invitation for us to carry forward with greater love the torch of the charism that has been passed on to each of us. We can ponder over this miracle and ask ourselves: 100 years ago, the 6 valiant missionaries have done everything within their capacity to pass on the legacy of our founders to us and today we have received much and more than what we could imagine or think of. Passing towards the next century, today we are the custodians of this great legacy. What have we to pass on to others? What is the quality of our life that could influence others and that could perpetuate the spirit of our congregation to the generations to come? Let us



think, reflect and take some commitments that will trigger our hearts and our lives to follow the trail already paved by our pioneers.

Although we have celebrated together as FMA India the historic event in a very significant manner at Katpadi on 3 September 2022, may I invite all our communities to keep the 24th of November, a day of thanksgiving to God for his love, his blessing and his fidelity to us in these 100 years. Let us pledge our fidelity to move on with renewed vigour to spread the Chrism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in our land. The conclusion of the centenary as well as the centenary of the arrival of the 6 missionaries to North East India will take place in our Province in September 2023.

Animation Programme: There will be the animation programme for the members of the Provincial Council and the Community Animators on 1 and 2 December 2022 prior to the Provincial Community Day. The programme will begin at 9am. Therefore, all concerned are requested to arrive at FMA Outreach on 30 November and for those who are not far can arrive early on the 1st of December itself.

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 a special way through the intercession of St. Artemide Zatti, the new Saint of the Salesian Family that he may intercede for the physical and spiritual health of everyone. We remember in our prayers particularly:

- Our Sisters who are recuperating after their treatment in the hospitals especially Sr. Phyllis Bamon, Sr. Juliana Sangma and all those who are not keeping well in the communities.
- The mother of Sr. Garnet Sutnga
- The father of Sr. Embahlang Dhar
- The father of Sr. Darisuk Shabong
- The Sister of Sr. Margret Changte
- The brother of Sr. Ethelda Laloo who is also the uncle of Sr. Euginia Laloo
- The brother of Sr. Euginia Kyntiewlin Susngi who is also the nephew of Sr. Rosina Susngi.
- And all the relatives of our Sisters.

We also offer our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all our Sisters who have lost their dear ones in the past month and all the members of the Salesina Family. 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 November – All Saints

02 November – Departed Souls

13 November – St. Artemide Zatti

13 November – World Day of the Poor

15 November – Blessed Magdalene Morano

20 November – Christ the King

25 November – Blessed Mamma Margaret

Very soon we will enter the season of Advent (27 November 2022) which marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year. Over the course of the year, the Church proposes us to live this entire span of time in faith with reference to Christ. Life and faith, in fact, are closely intertwined for the Christian. The period of Advent reminds us of this opportunity given to every Christian to strengthen our faith by our way of life and by the concordance of the signs of faith with the external expositions of daily life. It also reminds us of the redemption that the birth of Christ will bring to humanity



and a preparation that leads humanity to encounter God. At the same time, it leads us through this journey accompanied by prayer, hope and good works to reflect on this ultimate encounter with God, as the Apostle Paul teaches in the First Letter to the Corinthians, we "will see him face to face" (1 Cor 13:12). God's plan to raise a descendant of King David's lineage is a message of faith and hope in the promises of God, fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, an event that we will commemorate after fruitful preparation during this time of Advent. We are therefore invited to prepare for the coming of Jesus the Messiah, by examining our lives to see if they are in line with God's commandments and to amend our ways, so that the birth of Christ, which we will celebrate at Christmas, may bring us closer to God. Let us therefore spend a fruitful time in communion with God during this season of grace and pray that the Lord will purify our life from sin, so that we can be prepared and always ready to welcome the new born Jesus into our life at all times, especially at Christmas. Let PRAYER be the Powerful Weapon that helps us grow closer in communion with God in this season of Grace, let FAITH be the armour that shields us from dangers and temptations of sin and let our GOOD WORKS be the sign that we share the true meaning of Advent and the fruitful preparation for the coming of our Saviour.

*I wish you a fervent Novena of the Immaculate Conception and
a fruitful Season of Advent!*

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,
Affectionately,

Handwritten signature of Sr. Elizabeth George FMA

Sr. Elizabeth George FMA
Provincial