



# Provincial Circular

## Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

CIR/EG/INS/59/2023

02.06.2023

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

**W**e have entered the month dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** which reminds us so vividly of the surpassing love of God for us. Pope Francis said *“The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the symbol par excellence of God's mercy, which represents the center, the source from which salvation sprang for all humanity.”* This description that Pope Francis makes about the Heart of Jesus helps us to understand, to a large extent, the mystery contained in the most Sacred Heart of Christ. This depiction of Jesus who offers his life, his heart, aims to focus our attention on Christ's love for us: a great, heroic love which becomes gift of self. Jesus Christ came to show us God's great love, a love willing to give himself completely, to give us all of himself. The Heart of Jesus presents itself as bearer of the Father's love for the salvation of all men (Cf. Jo. 3, 16-18). This love floods his Heart and makes it especially sensitive to love us with supreme affection.

With the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church renders to Christ the cult of adoration that corresponds to the only-begotten Son of God, in whom God the merciful Father has come out to meet sinful humanity, to recover it from the perdition that would definitively distance it from happiness for which man was created. God meets humanity by the mediation of His Son Jesus who manifested the Father's merciful love in his heart that keeps on beating with greater longing to unite the human race to God. Jesus has a living and beating heart that truly loves us and is confirmed by his life and mission, the Love that is humble, selfless and redemptive.



- *The Love that is **HUMBLE**...*

The humility of Jesus is one of his qualities that most attract and move us when we meditate on it. There are many instances in the Holy Scripture wherein we can recognize the humble heart of Christ which is manifested in his heart burning with love for us. In fact, the ministry of Jesus on earth was characterized from beginning to end by humility. The Heart of Jesus tells us explicitly how humble is the person of Christ. He himself said "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Mt. 11,29) for He has not come to be served, "but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many"

(Mk.10,45). Jesus being a model of humility, teaches us how to relate to one another under the powerful influence of this Christian virtue. The humility of the Lord is also a call for us to live in humility in our daily encounters with one another. Saint Paul invites us to have "the same sentiments" as the Heart of Jesus who emptied himself, humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, unto death on the cross (Cf. Phil.2, 5-8). Be meek and humble, the Lord tells us. To get closer to Him and to his heart of love, we have to leave pride out of ourselves. and to fight our tendency towards it. The Lord reminds us that if we really want to love Him, if we really want to be one of his and fully identify with him, we ought to be simple and humble in heart, at all times and in all places. Let us therefore recognize ourselves that we are little and that we can only overcome our littleness if we cling to Him with all our might. Then we would understand more profoundly how great His love is for us.

- *The Love that is SELFLESS...*

The Heart of Jesus does not seek its own interest. Jesus only wants to do the will of the Father. He sets an outstanding example of unselfish love placing the needs and concerns of others above one's own and loving them to the highest degree of supreme love. He himself said: "*No one has greater love than this to give one's life for his friends.*" (John 15:13) Jesus willingly gave his precious life for us which is the ultimate expression of love. However, He showed unselfish love in other ways as well. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus showed unselfish love in a variety of ways. He was completely selfless. He was so engrossed in the ministry that he sacrificed the normal human comforts. In turn, he himself became self-gift to the others. Jesus shows his disciples the path of love, but explains to them that love is life's commitment, service and care. Loving does not just mean being immediately gratified but understanding the meaning of every gesture and every effort in every instant. For Jesus, loving, means above all to give without counting the cost, to love without selfish ambition.

- *The Love that is REDEMPTIVE ...*

The love of the Heart of Jesus is redemptive because it redeems us from the slavery of sin: "God proved his love for us in that, being sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5, 8). He frees us from the bondage of corruption "to participate in the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom 8, 21). The heart of the Savior invites us to go back to the love of the Father, which is the source of all authentic love: "In this lies love: it was not we who loved God, but it was he who loved us and sent his Son as a victim of expiation for our sins" (1Jn 4:10). Jesus incessantly received from the Father, rich in mercy and compassion, the love that He lavishes on humanity. His Heart particularly reveals God's generosity towards the sinner. God, in reacting to sin, does not diminish his love for man, but expands it in a movement of mercy which becomes an initiative of redemption.

If the Heart of Jesus loves us to the extreme degree of giving himself up for us, we are also called to love him, consecrate ourselves and give ourselves to the interests of his Heart because it is in the Heart of Jesus that the significant meaning of life is revealed as Pope St. John Paul II once said: "*From the Heart of Christ the heart of man learns to know the true and only meaning of his life and*

*his destiny, to understand the value of an authentically Christian life, to guard against certain perversions of the human heart, to unite love towards God with love of neighbor”*

### *Immaculate Heart of Mary*

**A**fter the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary- a heart that is full of Love, of compassion, of purity and of charity. The Heart of the Blessed Virgin who, full of faith and love, welcomed the Word of God, is called the first "dwelling of the Word", as well as "temple of the Holy Spirit" (cf. LG 53) precisely because of the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit within her. Mary is proposed to us not only as a model of Faith, but also as the first among the believers and a model of love. A love that educates, that bends obediently to the benevolent will of God, that knows how to step aside at the right time, but also be present at the right time and a love that knows how to draw the energy for one's life of Faith from personal reflection.



The event of the loss of the child Jesus in the temple which ends with the affirmation that Mary kept all these things in her heart is a clear indication of a heart that is overwhelmed with God's grace and wisdom of the Spirit. Mary kept all these things in her heart, even without fully understanding them, just as she had kept in her heart the prophecy of the old man Simeon who had predicted that a sword would pierce her heart. The Heart of Mary is wise, because she searches to do God's will and always adhere to fulfill it in faith. She preserved with faith in her heart the memory of the words and things related to the mystery of salvation.

We are blessed to have the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the patroness of our Province. As we prepare to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of our first missionaries to North East India, we are fascinated to narrate and recount the many miracles, blessings and favours we have received in the Province by the powerful intercession of Mother Mary. Let us continue to place in her loving heart the mission of our Province that she may continue to guide and accompany us to fulfill always what pleases God as she did. May she teach us by her example to seek for Jesus not in the flesh nor materialistic space of our life but rather in the spirit where the fullness of God's grace is truly found. I wish each and everyone of you dear Sisters, candidates, young people and everyone who forms part of our Province a very Happy Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May Mother Mary lead us safely on the road we travel towards her Son Jesus. Let us also keep in our special prayers, our Novitiate at Bellefonte which also bears the name of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

### *World Environment Day*

**T**he theme for World Environment Day on 5 June this year will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign *#BeatPlasticPollution* focusing on the detrimental impacts caused by Plastic pollution – a concern which cannot be ignored. The yearly celebration of the world environment day reminds us constantly of our responsibility as citizens of the earth to respect, to preserve and to propagate the growth of life in every sense in the universe. These days, we are very

much affected by the negative consequences against the environment that pose a danger and a threat to all. However, the underlying reason to this lies deep within the heart of every individual who is vested with greater power and obligation to conserve the moral ethics towards our common home. Pope Francis repetitively reminds and invites everyone to this common goal of preserving the environment which is a growing common concern of everyone. I am sure in our schools, communities and institutions, various measures have been taken towards this end with various



programmes, initiatives and projects that will encourage ourselves and sensitize others on this growing concern. Our General Chapter XXIV has also given importance to this fact of the Integral Ecology which is taken as a priority choice for every FMA community and individual in the mission. We unite with the Church and the world at large in this common campaign of protecting the face of the earth with all its resources for a brighter future.

Let us examine ourselves if in our individual and common circles we are gearing together towards eradicating this harmful phenomenon of pollution, environmental degradation and human exploitation or are we aiding the growth of such things. Let us join hands together and walk hand in hand for the achievement of this goal towards integral ecology. Let us try our capacity and contribute our best to promote life with sense of responsibility and love for our future generations. Let us give heed to the call of GCXXIV to dare *“to make prophetic and concrete gestures in promoting a solidarity-based sustainable economy, to share resources and skills more courageously with a missionary dimension.”*

### *Family News and Communications*

**Welcome Back Home:** We warmly welcome back home our dear Sr. Maria Quinta Wankhar who is returning from Rome after a year of studies. We extend our affectionate welcome back to her and wish her God’s blessings upon the mission that is awaiting her. She will arrive in the Province on 6 June 2023.

**Students:** The following sisters will be frequenting different courses of studies this year. We implore God’s grace upon them that the period of educative formation they will soon embrace be an opportune time to equipe themselves with wider knowledge and competence for the needs of the mission.

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)**

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sr. Ailin Mary L. Marshilong | 6. Sr. Lusimai Maiong         |
| 2. Sr. Charanam Satein          | 7. Sr. Ready Manih            |
| 3. Sr. Dashailin Nongshli       | 8. Sr. Rosilin Wahlang        |
| 4. Sr. Esha Mery Majaw          | 9. Sr. Theresa Thyрниang      |
| 5. Sr. Lidiana Saioo            | 10. Sr. Wandakashisha Wahlang |

## **BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (B. COM)**

1. Sr. Yonaris Lyngdoh

## **BACHELOR OF EDUCATION(B.ED.)**

1. Sr. Gloria Thamei
2. Sr. Jurilin Lyngkhoi
3. Sr. Risalin Kharkongor
4. Sr. Sinjak R. Marak

\*\**.* Some Sisters will also pursue their studies through the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

**PCI National Coordinator:** We implore God's blessings upon Sr. Luigina Duia who has been appointed as the new National Coordinator for the Salesian Family. We wish her all the best in the mission entrusted to her care.

**Good results:** Heartiest Congratulations to all our students who have fared well in the SSLC and HSSLC Examinations from the various institutions of our Province. A double share of warm congratulations to all our Sisters and teachers who have put every effort to groom and form the young minds as the future of the society. We wish all them God's blessings and all the very best in their future endeavours.

**Congratulations & Thank you:** Our warmest greetings and prayerful regards to Sr. Margaret Devadoss and Sr. Majella Fernando who have assumed the responsibility as the Provincials of Chennai Province (INM) and Trichy Province (INT) on 25 and 26 May 2023 respectively. May the Lord bless them with His grace and may our Blessed Mother guide and accompany them in their service of animation in the respective Provinces. We take this occasion to also express our gratitude to our dear Sr. Nirmala Lazar and Sr. Margaret Mary Amalanathan for their notable contributions made towards the growth of FMA India in the past 6 years in their capacity as the Provincials of INM and INT and as PCI Presidents at different times. May the Lord reward them graciously for the commendable good done through their instrumentality and may they continue to be a blessing to all in their new mission.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the Second Novitiate:** Let us keep in our prayer our sisters who will make their final profession this year. They will begin the intense preparation with the second phase of the second Novitiate which will be held at FMA Outreach. The programme will begin on 1 July 2023 and all the Sisters are requested to arrive the venue by lunch on **30 June 2023**. Let us accompany our dear Sisters with our prayerful support in this important moment in their religious life so that supported by our prayers, they may courageously and generously say their total 'YES' to God in the Institute and in the mission that lies ahead of them. Sincere gratitude to Sr. Ribhalin Khyriem who will coordinate the programme and to the community of FMA Outreach for hosting the programme. Let us keep our sisters in our special remembrance and prayers in this period of intense preparation.

**Annual Spiritual Retreat:** The remaining Annual Spiritual Retreat for the temporary professed Sisters, Novices and Postulants will be held in the month of July as listed below. The arrival will be by lunch on the first day of retreat. We accompany our Sisters, Novices and Postulants with our prayers that this time of grace bring much blessing to their life and mission.

DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS	PREACHER
06 - 13 July 2023	BELLEFONTE	Novices, Postulants and the 1 <sup>st</sup> year Temporary Professed Sisters	<i>Fr. Biji Thomas SDB</i>
22-29 July 2023	FMA OUTREACH	Temporary Professed Sisters	<i>Fr. Denis Lalfela SDB</i>
<p><b>*N. B*:</b>            1. The first retreat will be preceded by Bible Study Programme from 3-6 July 2023.            2. The second retreat will be followed by the Renewal programme and Renewal of Vows</p>			

### *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 remember in our prayers particularly:

- The brother of Sr. Hamdiaw Suchinag
- The brother of Sr. Mary Concepta Pakma
- The mother of our Rector Major
- All our sisters who are sick in the communities, and
- All the sick 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 Salesian Family. We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support particularly to:

- Sr. Irine Lyngdoh at the demise of her sister on 11 May 2023.
- Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Chennai Province (INM) at the passing away of Fr. Stanislaus Swaminathan SDB on 17 May 2023.

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

- 04 June: Holy Trinity
- 08 June: St Mariam Teresia
- 11 June: Body and Blood of Christ
- 16 June: Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 17 June: Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 23 June: Joseph Cafasso
- 24 June: Birthday of John the Baptist
- 29 June: Sts. Peter and Paul

Let us embrace every opportunity that comes our way as a blessing and grace during this month. Let us intensify our prayers for our fellow brothers and sisters who are suffering much in the state of Manipur and for the restoration of peace. May our solidarity with them make known the loving and merciful heart of God who love us beyond measure. I wish each and every one of you a fervent month dedicated to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. I also extend my greetings of **HAPPY FEAST** of the Sacred Herat of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May the fire of God’s love infame our lives with greater passion and love for God and for humanity.

*“Do not be afraid to present to Jesus all the intentions of our suffering humanity, its fears, its miseries. May this Heart, full of love for men, give everyone hope and trust. I invite you to discover the riches that are hidden in the Heart of Jesus.”*

— Pope Francis, June 17, 2020 —

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,  
Affectionately,



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



— **Happy Feast!** —