



# Provincial Circular

## Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

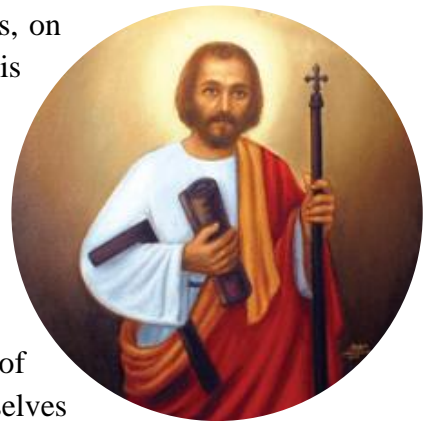
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03.07.2023

My dear Sisters,

Loving greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai!

On this solemnity of St. Thomas, the Apostle, I wish everyone of you a very 'Happy Feast'. Our Motherland India is privileged to have had St. Thomas, the Apostle of Christ as its first evangelizer to proclaim the Good News and the message of God's love. The tradition relating to the missionary activity of St. Thomas, the Apostle is based on very ancient testimonies. Glancing through the History of the Church in India, we could see and almost visualize in front of us the many hardships and obstacles that St. Thomas had to undergo in his missionary activity in India. Yet faith in the power of the Risen Lord never diminished a single day until he could preach the Gospel values in India. We believe that the famous exclamation of St. Thomas "My Lord and my God" was the guiding force that accompanied him in his missionary journeys. He believed in the power of resurrection. He believed in the light of God's love; he believed in the hope of God's promises. We are more than privileged to receive such legacy of Faith handed on to us with the passionate love. In the Gospels we read how Jesus responded to the incredulity of St. Thomas saying: "Blessed are those who did not see, but believe!" To believe is not to see. Believing means participating in God's life. It is above all a message and a light: light of God in our lives, on history, on good and evil, on the ultimate value of love. Belief is always in relation to a now. Believing that God, now cannot leave us alone; that God can now direct the course of things; even more: that God, now, with his love, can work a miracle. This was the conviction we believe that spurred the faith and passion of St. Thomas. Many times, like him, we may also encounter doubt in our faith: have temptations and difficulties in faith. May St. Thomas help us that like him we may see things with the eyes of faith, we may do the works in faith and we may commit ourselves totally for a mission of Faith.



While St. Thomas searched to proclaim and disseminate the Gospel values in India, on the other hand we have our pioneers and our missionaries who preached and sowed the seed of the Charism and the Salesian Spirit in our land 100 years ago. They too with undaunted faith crossed every barrier and faced any amount of difficulties in order that the Gospel may spread and take deep roots in our land. Placing before us the figure of St. Thomas and our pioneers and missionaries, we could

well distinguish their missionary ardour in the unifying elements of FAITH and LOVE. There was nothing they did if not for the Faith, there was nothing they accomplished if not with love. FAITH and LOVE are the factors that have kept alive their memory and testimony even to this day. Drawing examples from them, we are reminded today that inspite of the hurdles that come our way, we are called to be the missionaries of Faith and Love to the world. Living the grace filled year of the Centenary, we are all the more invited to a spiritual renewal that enkindles Faith, inspires Hope and renews Love in the life of each one. All are not called like St. Thomas to preach the Gospels to far distant land; all are not called to sow the seed of the Charism crossing the ocean and geographical boundaries like our pioneers. But! all are called instead to be missionaries of God's Love and Mercy. Just as the Saints and those who have preceded us have lit the lamp of faith, we too have a significant part to play in handing on the faith we received.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis too continuously reminds and exhorts us that we are called to be missionaries in all situations, that being a missionary is not just a gift but a duty of all. He invites us constantly to live Faith in the concreteness of daily life, to open ourselves to the reality of the world around us, to become a missionary and a messenger of God's love to all. The Pope's invitation is not to live our faith closed inside ourselves or in small groups, but to open ourselves up to reach out and embrace everyone. Our life of faith will then be strong, capable of gratitude and of announcing the salvation of the Kingdom of God. "As Christians we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves," the Holy Father reminds us. "Missionary vocation is a call that He addresses to everyone, even if not in the same way. Let us remember that there are outskirts that are close to us, in the center of a city, or in one's own family." While we celebrate the feast of St. Thomas and recall with gratitude the life and sacrifice of our missionaries, let us put our best efforts following their example of faith and love and let us strive ever better to sacrifice something at personal level to contribute towards building up Faith and spreading Love to the world especially in our communities, in our region and in India as a whole.

In this month of July, we are also reminded to live with greater intensity of love remembering the precious blood of Christ that was shed to save us. The Blood of Christ shed for our sake is forever the symbol of life and sacrifice, which are admirably summed up in Christ. In His salvific plan, the whole life of Christ is a mystery of Redemption and the value of the Blood of the Incarnate Word is infinite, just as the charity that prompted the Son of God to pour it out is infinite, from the agony in Gethsemane to the scourging and crowning with thorns, in the ascent to Calvary and in the Crucifixion; and, finally, from the wound in the side, from which blood and water flowed, symbol of the Sacraments of our Salvation.



There is no other "sign" that can educate, convert, save and free humanity from the dominion of death and evil and to return to the Father's house, if not Jesus Christ. Jesus is mercy seen, touched and enjoyed. Jesus is mercy made "flesh" out of love. The Cross and the Crucified Christ are forever the sign of a Covenant: the Covenant that is signed with the shedding of blood; the covenant which marks an indelible pact. That crucified body of Christ

and the blood he shed become "food and drink" for the salvation of humanity- the food that nourishes for eternity and the drink that purifies. Thinking of the heroic act of Jesus who shed every single drop of blood to save and redeem us, we can only say and convince ourselves that only 'Love saves.'

In the Bible we see that the blood of animals was used as a gesture of commitment, fidelity and mutual trust of the people towards God. In the book of Exodus the blood of the lambs was sprinkled on the doors of the houses of the Jews on the night of the liberation from Egypt, when the Lord wounded the firstborn to spare those who had the sacred sign on their doors and posts. We are no longer sprinkled with the blood of animals, but we have been redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ, as St. John the Evangelist quotes: "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"- this blood which continues to be celebrated as a memorial at every Eucharist that we celebrate and at every holy Communion that we partake. Let us remind ourselves that whenever we celebrate the Holy Mass, we commemorate the self-emptying act of Jesus on the Cross and let us partake in it as a moment to commemorate, celebrate and receive the gift of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ to purify and sanctify us.

During this month specially dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ, let us take some time out from our busy schedule to personally pray every day the Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood of Christ in atonement for every sin of the world that has caused suffering and death to Jesus and that his most precious blood may sanctify the world with true love and peace.

### *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*

This year the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on 23 July 2023 and the theme given by Pope Francis for the celebration is "***His mercy is from age to age***" (Lk 1:50). This theme was chosen to be in connection with the World Youth Day which will be held at Lisbon with the theme "***Mary arose and went with haste.***" It is interesting to note that Pope Francis linked the two celebrations to point out the need for a relationship between the elderly and the young, where the former pass on wisdom and life experience; the latter instead contain the strength and hope for the future. The interconnection of the two celebrations carries forward the message that the young and the old need the support of one another. This idea throws light to our actual religious life that in our community as well, we have a diversity of intergenerational richness which is made up of members with different age groups, characters, with diverse gifts and talents. While we appreciate the rich contribution and the wisdom of the elders in our community, let us also recognize the energetic involvement of the young people in order that our mission may truly bear the signs of God's love and tenderness.



## *Family News and Communications*

**Welcome Back Home:** We are happy to welcome back to the Province our dear Sr. Veronica Beypih after her 5 years' service in Rome. She is reaching the province today (3 July 2023). We implore God's abundant blessings upon her and the new mission that awaits her in the Province.

**Second Novitiate:** Our 15 Sisters who are preparing themselves for the final commitment to the Lord have begun the intense programme with the inauguration of the second phase of second novitiate on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 at FMA Outreach, Shillong. We wish them God's blessings in this important preparation before they make their total and definitive "YES" to God. May our Blessed Mother guide and accompany them in their journey of conforming their lives totally to her Son Jesus Christ. We wish all the best to Sr. Ribhalin Khyriem who will coordinate the programme and to all the Sisters and Fathers who will help our Sisters by way of classes and animation. I thank Sr. Happyline Shadap and the community of FMA Outreach for accommodating our sisters during this important part of their religious life. May the Lord bless everyone of them.

**Animation Programme:** As was communicated earlier, on 15 and 16 July 2023 the Sisters of the profession batches 2010-2016 will be having a two day seminar at FMA Outreach. The participants are expected to arrive the venue by 4.00pm on 14 July and the programme will end on 17<sup>th</sup> morning with breakfast. We pray for the fruitfulness of the meeting that the coming together may enthuse the charismatic passion and enhance the spiritual renewal of our Sisters as we celebrate the centenary.

**FIAT! Thy will be done O Lord:** We congratulate all our Sisters who with generosity of heart will make a total gift of themselves to the Lord through the first and final profession. We appreciate them for their courage and generosity and may the Lord continue to sustain their journey of fidelity with His loving grace.

### **FIRST PROFESSION**

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sr. Dhar Ajanta                   | 9. Sr. Papang Mercy         |
| 2. Sr. Khardewsaw Kyntiewhun Mary    | 10. Sr. Pariong Ribandalin  |
| 3. Sr. Kharkongor Aihunlin           | 11. Sr. Phawa Jessica       |
| 4. Sr. Kharumnuid Fatima             | 12. Sr. Pyngrope Almashisha |
| 5. Sr. Lalhruaitluangi Maria Goretti | 13. Sr. Pyngrope Ridasuk    |
| 6. Sr. Lapasam Sumarlang-i           | 14. Sr. Sangma A. Fatima    |
| 7. Sr. Marak M. Sophia               | 15. Sr. Taropi Ibasika      |
| 8. Sr. Marwein Inosencia             | 16. Sr. Thongni Wanda Mary  |

### **PERPETUAL PROFESSION**

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sr. Diengdoh Sandra Mary | 9. Sr. Rynshon Merryhun       |
| 2. Sr. Kharkongor Risalin   | 10. Sr. Sangma M. Lepchi      |
| 3. Sr. Latam Alphonsa       | 11. Sr. Shadap Handaka        |
| 4. Sr. Lyngkhoi Idearland   | 12. Sr. Suja Diamond          |
| 5. Sr. Marak Ch. Mejitha    | 13. Sr. Thongni Aiful Mary    |
| 6. Sr. Marak S. Clara       | 14. Sr. Warbah Rishalin       |
| 7. Sr. Marwein Hunda Mary   | 15. Sr. Warjri Mariada Shisha |
| 8. Sr. Phangchopi Roslina   |                               |

We also extend our warmest greetings and congratulations to all our 94 temporary professed sisters who will renew their vows to the next stage of religious life in the different places in and outside the Province. May they be blessed with greater love and fidelity.

Our prayerful greetings also to our 12 Postulants who will enter the Novitiate. May the 2 years of intense preparation be a time of radical choice for Christ. The Postulants are:

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dkhar Eucratis    | 7. Rongrin Edahun        |
| 2. Iawphniaw Shanta  | 8. Sangma D. Santa       |
| 3. Marak B. Dikchera | 9. Sangma S. Bebera      |
| 4. Nonglang Asha     | 10. Shyrkon Kerbhalin    |
| 5. Rabon Daphipaia   | 11. Suchiang Iaraplangki |
| 6. Rabon Saralin     | 12. Suchiang Iowbiangmi  |

We keep in our prayers also our 6 Novices who are outside the Province and who are already immersed in the Novitiate life in the Provinces of Mumbai and Bangalore.

**Intensive Juniorate:** The Intensive Juniorate 2023-24 will begin on **13 August 2023** at Auxilium, Nongthymmai. All the Sisters who are part of the programme are expected to arrive latest by 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. We accompany our young sisters with our prayers that this one year of intense programme may rekindle their passion to live for God with greater love and conviction. Let us do all we can to journey together with our young sisters. The Sisters are:

**AUXILIUM, NONGTHYMMAI**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sr. Balorita A. Sangma    | 11. Sr. Wanniang Methelda                |
| 2. Sr. Dkhar Fabiana         | 12. Sr. Warjri Bestonia                  |
| 3. Sr. Kharsahnoh Riphilda   | 13. Sr. Zorammawii Lucy Ralte            |
| 4. Sr. Kharsyiemiong Bansara | 14. Sr. Marak Munmun (INB)               |
| 5. Sr. Langrin Bibimary      | 15. Sr. Tirkey Priyank (INB)             |
| 6. Sr. Nongkynrih Rina       | 16. Sr. Vasava Khushbooben (INB)         |
| 7. Sr. Pyngrope Dahun Mary   | 17. Sr. Kujur Lucy Neha (INC)            |
| 8. Sr. Rynjah Iarikmen       | 18. Sr. Udit Tirkey (INC)                |
| 9. Sr. Syiemlieh Felinicia   | 19. Sr. Arulnesan Jenatnayaki (INM)      |
| 10. Sr. Tyngkan Opaia        | 20. Sr. Emmanuval Camalin Riyalini (INM) |

**AUXILIUM PROVINCIAL HOUSE, GUWAHATI**

1. Sr. Sangma Tengsilchi
2. Sr. Kharkongor Risilyn

**ITLR, MAWLAI**

1. Sr. Nongrud Stability
2. Sr. Pyngrope Poilang

We warmly welcome all the Sisters who are coming from the Provinces of Mumbai (INB), Kolkata (INC) and Chennai (INM) who will form part of our family this year. We wish them a happy and



enjoyable stay in Shillong and may their presence with us unite the bond of closer communion and family spirit.

**New Aspirants:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, 24 young girls joined the Aspirantate Community of Auxilium, Saidu. Let us accompany them with our prayers in their journey of discerning God's will for them.

**Missionary Course:** The yearly missionary course organized by the Salesians will be held at Mathias Institute, Mawlai Shillong from 15 September- 03 October 2023 and in Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati from 03 - 07 October 2023. This year the Province is sending Sr. Irine Lyngdoh and Sr. Aitihun Lawai for this programme. After the course, they will also participate in the pilgrimage to the Holy land from 07-18 October 2023. We wish them God's blessings and all the best for the course and especially a fruitful pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**Safe Journey:** We extend our warm greetings and safe journey to Sr. Deihok Mukhim who will be leaving the Province on 14 July 2023 to frequent the Spirituality Course at Casa Santa, Rome. We accompany her with our prayers that her mission may be fruitful and be blessed with God's abundant grace. Please pray that her documents may get processed on time.

**World Youth Day:** The World Youth Day 2023 will be celebrated at Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 August 2023. From our Province, Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew with a group of young adults will be participating in it. We wish them a fruitful experience of the mega celebration of the Church together with the young people from all over the world. Let us unite with the whole Church in celebrating this event and let us pray that this celebration may bring many young people closer to God and to one another. Sr. Wismary and the group will leave on 31 July 2023 and will return on 9 August 2023. We wish them a pleasant trip and a fruitful participation.



**Congratulations and God's blessings:** We congratulate Rev. Fr Benny Varghese Edathattel of Kohima diocese, who is elected Bishop of Itanagar Diocese. May the Lord bless him in his new mission of shepherding the people of God.

We also extend our heartiest congratulations to our dear Sr. Teresa Joseph FMA, member of the FMA Province of Mumbai (INB) who was appointed as the Catholic representative to the Commission for World Mission and Evangelization (CWME) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU). We congratulate Sr. Teresa for this honour bestowed upon her. We assure her of our prayers and support in this noble mission. May the Lord bless and accompany her.



**Congratulations!**

**Annual Spiritual Retreat:** The annual spiritual retreat of the temporary professed sisters will begin on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 at FMA Outreach. All those who will participate in it are requested

to arrive latest by lunch on the same day. The retreat will end on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> July which will be followed by the renewal programme for ALL the temporary professed sisters from 29<sup>th</sup> July- 2<sup>nd</sup> August. All those who are joining only for the renewal programme are requested to arrive latest by 10.00am on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We intensify our prayers for all our young sisters who will spend these precious moments of togetherness with the Lord and with one another as they give themselves for God's service.

**A note of thanks:** On behalf of the whole Province, I would like to sincerely express gratitude to Fr. Biji Thomas SDB and Fr. Denis Lalfela SDB who generously availed themselves to preach the 2 retreats of July for our Sisters and candidates. May the Lord bless their generosity to help them come closer to God. A note of thanks also to the communities of Bellefonte and FMA Outreach for hosting the retreats. May the Lord bless our Sisters and all those who help directly and indirectly for the fruitfulness of the retreats.

**Upcoming events:** Kindly find attached below the dates for the various celebrations of the foundation Day in this significant year of the Centenary of the arrival of our pioneers to North India. Let us send ahead our prayers that everything may be guided by God's grace and assistance of our Blessed Mother.

EVENT	DATE	PLACE
Renewal Course for ALL the temporary Professed Sisters	29 July- 2 August 2023	FMA Outreach, Shillong
Renewal of Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 July 2023</li> <li>• 02 August 2023 (evening)</li> <li>• 05 August 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auxilium, Rome</li> <li>• FMA Outreach, Shillong</li> <li>• In other Indian Provinces (INK, INM, INC)</li> </ul>
Initiation to Religious Life	3 August 2023	Mary our Help, Bellefonte
Perpetual Profession	4 August 2023	St. Dominic Savio Parish, Mawlai
First Profession	5 August 2023	Mary our Help, Bellefonte

### *Prayers for the sick and the departed*

**W**e 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. Sinjak Marak
- The mother of Sr. Albrida Pyngrope and Sr. Raneer Pyngrope
- The Sister of Sr. Meristella and Sr. Rina Kharthangmaw
- The complete recovery of Sr. Carmelina Sun and all our sisters who are sick in the communities, and
- All the sick relatives of our Sisters.

**W**e 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. Luigina Duia at the demise of her brother on 9 June 2023.
- Sr. Diamond Suja at the passing away of her father on 17 June 2023.
- All our Sisters who have lost their dear ones in this past month of June.
- Our Rector Major Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime SDB at the departure of his mother on 24 June 2023.
- Fr. Provincial and Confreres of Shillong Province (INS) at the passing away of Bro. Matthew Vazhamplackal SDB and Fr. Jose Valiaveetil SDB on 03 and 19 June 2023 respectively.
- Fr. Provincial and Confreres of Kolkata Province (INC) at the demise of Fr. Thomas Polackal SDB on 12 June 2023.
- Fr. Provincial and Confreres of Bangalore Province (INK) at the departure of Fr. Ittira Mondoth SDB on 22 June 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

03 July – St. Thomas the Apostle  
07 July – Blessed Maria Romero  
16 July – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
22 July – St. Mary Magdalene

25 July – St. James the Apostle  
26 July – Sts. Joachim & Anne  
28 July – St. Alphonsa Muthathupadathu

**D**ear Sisters, we are almost at the threshold of the solemn conclusion of the Centenary year. I appreciate the work done by the different committees in order to ensure the smooth flow of the events. 100 years of graces and blessing ought necessarily to pave the way for more graces and blessings in coming years. We send prayers ahead so that the celebrations will leave a lasting impact on our life and mission.

The situation and the escalating violence in the state of Manipur calls for our prayers, our sacrifices and our solidarity with the suffering people of the State. As a Province, let us unite in prayers for the restoration of Peace in the state of Manipur by putting special intention every day in the Community Rosary. May Our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Peace bless the land of Manipur and its people with Peace, Love and Fraternity.

With assurance of prayers and loving accompaniment,  
Affectionately,



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

