



## PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

### Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Auxilium Provincial Office Nongthymmai, Shillong - Meghalaya - 793014

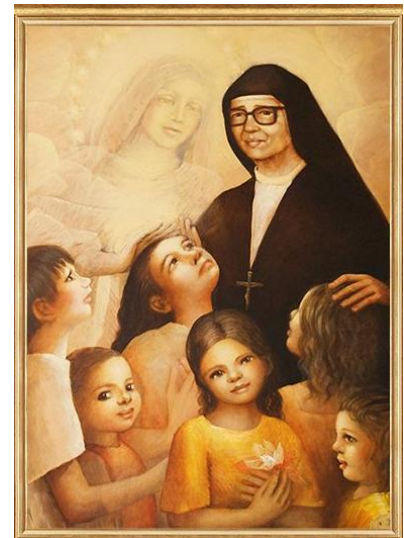
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My dearest Sisters,

Greetings from Rome. I bring the greetings of Mother General, the General Councillors and of all our Sisters in Rome. We have begun our meeting well with the other provincials from the various Provinces of our Institute. Kindly keep us in your prayers for the fruitfulness of the meeting.

Today as we commemorate Blessed Sr. Maria Romero Meneses, we are reminded of her heroic virtues of holiness that guided her life and her mission. Sister Maria Romero shines as a model of Salesian holiness for her extraordinary self-giving in charity and her faith in the provident love of God and of Mary Help of Christians whom she considered as her 'Queen'. She entrusted herself entirely to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary in all that she did. She not only had true and faithful devotion to her, but also was an instrument in extending Mary's maternal love to all. She transformed her faith into tireless activity opening up clinics, youth centres and homes for the needy. The secret of her holiness lies in doing everything with and for Jesus' love. In one of her writings, she wrote: "*Holiness consists in a life of intimacy with God, with Jesus permeating our lives... Today, Jesus, teach me to speak, to work and to live only in your love, of your love, and for your love.*"



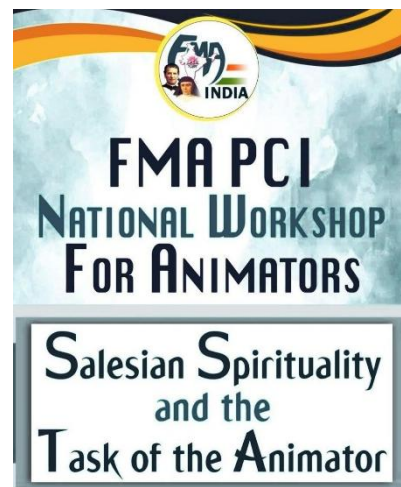
St. Pope John Paul II in his homily at her beatification on 14 April 2002 said: "*Sister María Romero Meneses, knew how to reflect the face of Christ which he made her recognize in the sharing of the bread. [...] Those beloved Central American peoples, united in the joy of her beatification, can find in the new Blessed who loved them so much, an abundance of example and teaching to renew and confirm their Christian life, deeply rooted in their countries. With a passionate love for God and an unlimited confidence in the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sr María Romero was an exemplary religious, apostle and mother of the poor people, who were her real favourites. May her memory be a blessing for all and may the works she founded, [...] continue in fidelity to the ideal that led to their being started.*"

Her life is a rich legacy for us today. She teaches us that true love is measured by how much we love God and how we are able to attend to the needs of our neighbours in need. May she inspire and

guide us to become holier in our daily life and mission, seeking to serve with greater love and humility.

### *PCI Seminar 2026*

As the PCI Seminar in Shilong has come to an end with the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 6 July 2026, I would like to sincerely thank all the communities for the prayers offered for the smooth running and the fruitfulness of the meeting. “**Salesian Spirituality and the Task of the Animators**,” was the theme that guided the National Workshops for all the Animators of FMA PCI. Our Province has had the privilege of hosting three of the six groups, while the remaining three groups are being conducted at Kurseong (INC). We thank God for His loving presence with us and for the blessings we have experienced as a Province by the presence of the Sisters from the various Provinces.



The Seminar was beautifully animated by Fr. Roy Anthony SDB and it was truly an enriching moment of reflection, sharing and active engagement in various activities. The first group was held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 with 35 participants, followed by the second group from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 with 43 participants and the last group for Shillong held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 with 47 participants. Through the inspiring input sessions, moments of personal reflection and group sharing, the workshop has sought to deepen the participants’ understanding of Salesian spirituality and strengthen the mission as community animators in today’s changing realities.

Our sincere gratitude to Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil, the President of FMA PCI and Provincial of Kolkata for her vision and wise thought to organize such beautiful seminar that touches the core of our Salesian life and mission and for having chosen Shillong as one of the venues for such an important meeting. We consider it a blessing to the province.

The workshop was enriched by the generous collaboration of several resource persons and organizers. My heartfelt gratitude is extended to Sr. Alice Chacko, Secretary of PCI, whose valuable presence and practical insights inspired the participants to embrace our role as animators with renewed conviction. A special word of appreciation is also offered to Rev. Fr. Roy Anthony SDB, whose insightful animation and sessions has greatly enriched the learning experience of all the groups. Sincere thanks are due to Sr. Mabel Gothorp, Provincial of Guwahati, for moderating the second group and to Sr. Meenakshi D’Silva, Provincial of Mumbai for moderating the third group.

The participants were deeply inspired by the inaugural message of Sr. Celine Jacob, General Visiting Councillor as well as by the encouraging goodnight messages of Mother Chiara Cazzuola our Superior General and Sr. Runita Borja the General Councillor for Youth Pastoral, which has strengthened us in our role as leaders. The creative welcome presented by the student Sisters of Bellefonte College, together with the melodious welcome song by the novices, added a joyful and distinctly Salesian touch to the programme.

In a special way, I would like to thank the community of FMA Outreach for going out of their way in offering their hospitality to the participants. It surely did add to the fruitful outcome of the

seminar. May God bless Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, the animator and all the sisters and young people of the community.

As we continue to cherish the beautiful days of togetherness, we look forward to growth in our family spirit and sense of belonging that will promote more communion and inspire dedicated leadership with the heart of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in FMA PCI.

### *Our faithful 'YES'*

As many of our Sisters have received their obedience to the new communities and mission, I would like to reflect together on the significance of our religious obedience. Our obedience is not merely a duty to be fulfilled in moments of transfer but a continual attitude that shapes our entire life as consecrated religious women. In many circumstances, Mother Mazzarello teaches us that Obedience is the key to our sanctification. Truly, it is through obedience that we imitate Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and submitted to the will of the Father and a reflection of our love for Him and our trust in His divine plan for each of us and our communities.



As we receive our transfers and are entrusted with new responsibilities, let us remember that obedience demands from us a generous and humble spirit, ready to accept God's will in all circumstances and in our relationships in our communities and mission. It invites us to live each day with fidelity to small matters of daily duties not just accepting the change of community. May I recommend that this year we build up sincere and genuine interrelationships that will reflect the love of God and the spirit of Mornese in each of our communities whether in our prayer, our work, or our interactions with others. Dear Sisters let us practice the spirit of our obedience consistently, recognizing that every act, no matter how small, is an offering to God.

Let us seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother, whose exemplary "Yes," reminds us of complete obedience to God's plan. May she help us to imitate her fidelity and trust. May her maternal guidance strengthen us to live obedience not out of obligation but as a sincere response to God's love.

### **FAMILY NEWS & COMMUNICATION**

**Annual Spiritual Retreat:** The annual spiritual retreat for the novices and postulants will be held from 15-21 July 2026 at Bellefonte while the retreat for the second group of the temporary professed sisters will be from 22-28 July 2026 at FMA Outreach, Shillong. Let us unite in prayer, asking for God's blessings and spiritual transformation for all those participating in these retreats. We pray in a special way for the Postulants, second year Novices, the sisters who will renew their vows and those who will make their perpetual profession.

We anticipate our gratitude to Fr. Denis Lalfela SDB and Fr. Raphael Maiong SDB who will be preaching the retreats for the Novices and Postulants and for the sisters respectively. We thank them for their availability and for accepting to help our Candidates and sisters experience God in these days of grace.

- The Postulants will come up to Bellefonte, Shillong on 11 July 2026 and the retreat will begin on the evening of 15 July.
- All the Sisters who are attending the retreat are requested to arrive the venue on 22 July latest by 3.00pm.

**Annual Renewal Programme:** The Annual Renewal Course for the temporary professed sisters will be held from 29 July- 2 August 2026. All the temporary professed sisters in the Province will participate in it. All those who have made their retreat earlier are requested to arrive for the programme on 29 July by 9.30am. This programme is a fundamental occasion for our sisters to deepen their spiritual commitment and renew their dedication of life to God. The programme will conclude with the renewal of vows on the evening of 2 August 2026. Let us keep all our junior sisters in our prayers that this time of spiritual renewal may bear much fruits in their personal life and in their religious formation.

I would also like to inform you that the Postulants will receive the Novices Medal on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026 at Bellefonte. Both the first and final professions will be celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Pynthorumkhrah. The first profession will be celebrated at 7.30am, while the perpetual profession will be at 10.30am. Let us send our prayers in advance for the fruitfulness of these upcoming celebrations, entrusting our candidates and sisters to the maternal protection of our Blessed Mother.

**Appointment of Sr. Alessandra Smerilli:** With great joy and gratitude to God, we rejoice at the wonderful news with the whole FMA family. On 30 June 2026, Pope Leo XIV appointed Sister Alessandra Smerilli, FMA, as Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, one of the most significant departments of the Roman Curia. Sister Alessandra has served as Secretary of the Dicastery since 2021, and will now lead the department in this new capacity, with the appointment taking effect on 1 September 2026. She succeeds Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J., who has guided the Dicastery as Prefect since 2022. This appointment is a profound sign of trust, not only in Sister Alessandra personally, but in our entire Institute. Let us accompany Sister Alessandra with our prayers as she begins this new mission, entrusting her, as she herself has done, to the guidance of Mary Help of Christians, that she may live this responsibility with faithfulness, humility and a spirit of service.



**Hearty Welcome:** We extend a hearty welcome to the Salesian Family Sector from Rome, who will be in the Province from 7 to 12 August 2026 for an animation programme. The theme of the meeting will be "**Walking Together as the Salesian Family.**" I am confident that this meeting will help us deepen our shared understanding of animation and accompaniment within the Salesian Family, and renew our common commitment to walking together in the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. There will be two days of animation for all Delegates of the Salesian Family-Salesian Cooperators (ASC) and Past Pupils (both Provincial and Local Delegates). The third day will be for the same Delegates, together with the Coordinators/Presidents of the ASC and Past Pupils of each Unit. On 11<sup>th</sup> August they will also meet all our Novices.

I exhort the Sisters in charge of the Salesian Cooperators and Past Pupils to prepare earnestly for this upcoming animation programme by familiarising themselves with the documents pertaining to their respective groups. The team will leave the Province on 13 August 2026 to continue the animation programme in the Guwahati Province.

## **CONDOLENCES**

We convey our condolences and prayerful solidarity to all our sisters who lost their dear ones in this past month especially:

- To Sr. Dahun Mary Pyngrope at the demise of her father on 7 June 2026.
- To Sr. Saralin Rabon and Sr. Daphipaia Rabon at the departure of their mother on 17 June 2026.
- To Fr. Provincial and the confreres of the Bangalore Province on the passing away of Fr. Joy Pulikan, SDB, on 03 July 2026.
- To all the departed members and relatives of our Sisters and of the Salesian Family.

## **PRAYER REQUEST**

Let us offer our prayers through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and our dear Mother Rosetta Marchese for all our sisters who are sick at homes and in the hospital. We pray in particular for the complete healing of:

- Sr. Bertina Kurbah who has been hospitalized many times this month at St. John's Hospital, Guwahati.
- The Father of Sr. Rikmerosa M. Sangma.
- All the relatives of our sisters, the members of the Salesian Family and their respective families.

As we draw closer to the Foundation Day of our Institute and the anniversary of our Religious Profession on 5<sup>th</sup> August, I invite each of us to begin preparing our hearts well for this sacred and joy-filled occasion. The Foundation Day reminds us of the charism and vision our Founders left us as a precious inheritance, while the day of our Profession renews within us the vows through which we said our own "yes" to that same call. Together, they invite us to look back with gratitude, to look within with honesty and to look forward with renewed fervour. Let us not allow the celebration to become merely external or routine. Rather, may this be a true moment of grace; a renewal of our love for God, for our Institute, and for the mission entrusted to us.

**"Holiness passes through the straight path of fidelity"**

- Mother Mazzarello -

Yours affectionately in our Blessed Mother,

*Sr. Rosa Pyngrope*

**Sr. Rosa Pyngrope**  
**Provincial**