



XXV/12

May 2018

My dearest Sisters,

Loving and warm greetings from the provincial house Bangalore!

Month of May is a typical Salesian month and very dear to all of us. Many of us remember with nostalgic feelings the day of our profession and our entry into the congregation on the auspicious feast of Mary Help of Christians. It is also very special for those who are going to enter the novitiate, those who will be making the first and final profession and renewal of the vows. Hence it is an apt time at the end of the scholastic year to reflect together on the significance of our Salesian religious life.

True Salesian Spirituality is conceived as pastoral and educational. In the community of Mornese, animated by Mother Mazzarello, our first sisters lived the Gospel radically, opening themselves to the needs of the environment, ready to go beyond regional and national boundaries.

Our life as FMA is completely dedicated to God and to the young people entrusted to us by Mary. We need to have a "great and generous heart" to accept the mandate implicit in our vocation "I entrust them to you." The first FMA perceived the cry of poverty arising from the women around them. There were women used by others to "do evil." There were girls thirsting for the possibility of social advancement, for culture, love, joy, sense of meaning in life.

The first community rightly defined as "the house of God's love" could not refuse any one who knocked at their door for help or Emma who rebelled against all discipline or Corinna who allowed herself to be trapped by ambition, or Maria Belletti who was so vain and proud or people from Nizza afflicted by flooding from the Belbo River, or the many women coming for the retreat. They were all appeals which opened up the horizons of the first FMA to a limitless and real motherhood, marked by renunciation and not affective sterility. These simple and generous women lived a new model of womanhood, close to the people, eager to work to advance the cause of the disadvantaged. Living as an FMA means living a dynamic between fidelity to little things and universal openness, between prayer and the giving oneself, between listening and proclaiming, interior life and social solidarity, obedience to God and to human living.

In order to respond to this educational vocation the first FMA realized they needed to undertake a journey: the humble and tenacious search for means, structures and competencies. These women were daring, courageous in moving out to the needs, leading them in turn to find new ways of enculturation for the holistic education of each person.

Dear sisters, as we are in a special time of closing as well as opening of the scholastic year doesn't it make us to have a self-examination of our own religious life?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each one of you for your openness in willingly accepting to be available in the new mission you are entrusted with. To all those who will be moving to the new communities I would like to remind the scripture verse: 'He is going ahead of you into galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you'

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO

Saint Dominic Savio is a wonderful hero for young people today. He died as a teenager who was admired and liked by his classmates and his teachers. His way to holiness was to follow the spirituality taught him by St. John Bosco and his Salesians, namely a life lived simply by doing the everyday duties of life in an extra ordinary way. At the Oratory, Dominic studied directly under Fr. Bosco. He worked diligently and always asked questions when he did not understand something. He renewed his First Holy Communion promises that he wrote in his little book at the age of seven. After six months at the Oratory, Dominic delivered a speech on the path to sainthood. In his speech, he made three outstanding points; it is God's will that we ALL become saints, it is easy to become a saint, and there are great rewards in heaven for saints. Dominic's desire to become a saint troubled him. Like St. Dominic Savio let us increase our desire to become a saint by renewing our purpose of being a religious.

ST. MARIA DOMENICA MAZZARELLO

The characteristic mark of St. Mary Mazzarello is her humility, a profound consciousness and continual remembrance of a lowly birth, a plain way of life, and her work. She was but a peasant girl, a village seamstress, endowed with the most elementary education, one that lacked all the refinements we generally associate with the term. There was in her only that simplicity which God had predisposed in such an elect soul. Her serenity and joy, ability to build up deep and authentic relationships and the certainty of the presence and closeness of God helped her to transform the inevitable sufferings and hardships of life into precious opportunities for growth and conversion. Mary as co-foundress translated the Salesian way into a simple life for women religious, creating the spirit of simplicity, joyfulness, poverty and family-like relationships which came to be known from the place where it all began as the 'Spirit of Mornese'. Let us relive the Spirit of Mornese as we celebrate her birthday and feast day. A very happy feast to all!

FEAST OF ASCENSION

Jesus left the disciples, promising what must have seemed very strange – the Holy Spirit as guide and comforter. The disciples were understandably confused, anxious, even grieving. We know the end of the story – and yet we, too, are often confused, anxious and grieving. Let us renew our faith again in the promises of Jesus and remember that we are not left alone in this world, that we are baptized into a community of faith with Jesus as the head and the Holy Spirit as our Guide. On this

Feast of the Ascension let us remember the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit and pray to be open to the Spirit's action in our lives.

PENTECOST

The Solemnity of Pentecost, which marks the end of Easter season. Easter and Pentecost are intimately connected. The Feast of Pentecost commemorates the day on which Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew that the gift of the Holy Spirit was the most important gift He could give to his disciples because it was the same Holy Spirit that led Him throughout His life. "He grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon Him." (Luke 2:40) Pentecost is a time for each of us to hear God's personal invitation to live our baptized life to the full. The question is how we are responding to His message and inspirations in our daily life.

FEAST OF MARY "MOTHER OF THE CHURCH"

Pope Francis has decreed that Latin-rite Catholics around the world will mark the feast of "the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church" on the Monday after Pentecost each year. The decree announcing the addition to the church calendar was released March 3 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. Pope Francis approved the decree after "having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety," the decree said. Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, noted in a brief commentary published the same day, that that Blessed Paul VI in 1964 had formally bestowed the title of "mother of the church" on Mary, but that recognition of her maternal care for the church and for believers had already spanned centuries. "The feeling of Christian people through two millennia of history has cultivated the filial bond which inseparably binds the disciples of Christ to his Blessed Mother in various ways," the cardinal said.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The title, Help of Christians, was not invented by Don Bosco nor was it the result of his great devotion to Mary. It had already existed in Loreto litany since the 16th century. Pope Pius VII began the celebration of Mary Help of Christians in 1814 and fixed its date on 24th May. Don Bosco writes on: "From her high seat of glory she casts down her maternal gaze and says: I live on the highest throne of glory to enrich those that love me with blessings and fill their treasuries with celestial favours. For this reason and since her Assumption in heaven, there has been the constant and uninterrupted flow of Christians to Mary. I have never heard, says St Bernard, of anyone going to this merciful Virgin with faith and not being answered." The one who trusts in Mary will never be disappointed. Mary is our guide, our teacher, our mother. Mary most holy has always made herself a mother for us. A great support for us, a powerful weapon against the wiles of the devil. As Daughters of Mary Help of Christians let us honour her and celebrate her feast by becoming vibrant monument of Don Bosco's gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. Let us entrust to her maternal care the entire Salesian family, especially all those who will be making their first and final profession this month in the various Indian provinces.

FEAST OF THE VISITATION

We must not imagine that the Blessed Virgin Mary was moved to undertake this long journey to visit her cousin, St. Elizabeth, by curiosity to know if what the Angel had told her were true, for she had not the slightest doubt of it. Our Blessed Lady was moved by a secret impulse of God, Who wished to commence the work of Redemption and the sanctification of souls in this visit, by the sanctification of the infant St. John. The most ardent charity and most profound humility animated her, and gave her wings to fly across the mountains of Judea, and these two virtues were also the cause of her journey. As St. Ambrose says, charity or grace knows no delays nor cold deliberations: It need not therefore surprise us if the Most Holy Virgin, filled as she was with charity (because she bore in her womb Him Who is Love itself), should exercise it in continual acts towards God, to Whom she was closely united by the sacred bond of perfect love, and towards her neighbours, whom she loved so tenderly and sincerely that she sighed for the salvation and sanctification of the whole world. May Mary teach us to go in haste to the poor and the needy.

-----COMMUNICATION-----

VOCATION CAMPS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the communities of Palluruthy, Uppal and Auxilium Welfare Center for hosting the vocation camps and to the sisters who generously and with great enthusiasm spent their time in contacting young girls and conducting the Camps with much dedication and sense of belonging. A special thanks to Sr. Shiny Karackatt, Sr. Mary Karuvelil,

Sr. Sahaya Sangeetha Rani, and Sr. Venila Dominikki together with their collaborators who animated the girls at the various moments. Let us pray for those young girls who attended the camps that they may be inspired to respond generously to the Divine Master.

CONGRATULATIONS & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- **Entry into Novitiate**

To our three Postulants Dixy Benny, Madona J, Gittala Supriya who will begin the period of Novitiate on 23rd May 2018. We congratulate them and pray that they may respond to God's call with great generosity and love. I sincerely thank Sr. Molly Joseph and community for accompanying them and preparing them for this great day.

- **First Profession**

We have four Second Year Novices who will make their First Profession on 24th May at the Provincial house Chapel. Sr. Francis C Frinsha, Sr. Madugula Shantha K, Sr. Mathupally Jyothsna and Sr. Sahaya Rajan Dhanya M. We thank God for them and welcome them warmly into our religious family. We congratulate them and wish them a joyful religious life and loving fidelity to Christ.

- **Perpetual Profession**

We raise our hearts in thanksgiving to God for the gift of Sr. Dunna Josemary Radhika and Sr. Praveena Madhavan who will be making their Perpetual Profession at the Provincial House Chapel on 24th May. While we congratulate them let us offer our fervent prayers for their fruitful service among the young.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the communities of Bannerghatta and Provincial House for accompanying them while they prepared themselves for their final commitment.

- **Intense Renewal programme for Juniors**

Our temporary professed sisters will have their renewal programme from May 9th followed by the retreat from 16th – 22nd and the renewal of their vows on 23rd May. Let us pray that they may be always faithful to Christ and respond to His call generously in their daily life.

SINCERE THANKS

I am extremely grateful to Sr. Monica Thomas and the community of Provincial House for hosting the retreats, and for creating a prayerful and serene atmosphere where sisters could make their annual retreat fruitfully.

ECONOMERS MEET

On 1st & 2nd June there will be the meeting of economers as the auditor will be meeting them to present the audited accounts and on 3rd & 4th June for the new economers at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore.

JUBILEE GREETINGS

We congratulate our diamond Jubilarian Sr. Mary George as she will complete 60 years of her religious profession on 24th May 2018. Our loving and prayerful greetings to Sr. Teresa Kayaniyil our golden Jubilarian, and we greet with joy our Silver Jubilarians Sr. Esson Lisy, Sr. Seena Joseph & Sr. Sherly Puthussery. We rejoice and thank God almighty for your joyful fidelity and invoke God's choicest blessings on you and your mission in the coming years!

MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE

Sr. Rosy Lopez and Sr. Celine Antony will be participating in the Missionary Formation Course 2018 which is in view of preparing missionary animators. Date: September 01- October 04, 2018, including 12 days pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Venue: Don Bosco Provincial House, Mathias Institute, Shillong.

STUDENTS FOR ITALY

Sr. Bincy Thomas will attend the two years course on Salesian spirituality at Casa Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome and Sr. Dunna Josemary Radhika will attend the three years course in Pontificà Facoltà Auxilium Rome. We wish them an enriching experience at the Heart of the Church and of the Institute.

JUNIORATE AT GUWAHATI

Sr. Dominikki Venila and Sr. Crasta Leena will be joining ING Province for the Intensive Juniorate. We wish them a very fruitful and enriching formative experience.

CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS

Our heartfelt condolences to:

- ✚ Sr. Rita Dora and the Sisters of Mumbai Province at the demise of Sr. Alexandra Dias (86) on 17th April 2018.
- ✚ Sr. Celine Jacob at the demise of her maternal uncle Mr. Joseph, (85) on 10th April 2018.
- ✚ Sr. Lilly Arangassery at the passing away of her paternal aunt Mrs. Rosy, (79) on 19th April 2018.
- ✚ Fr. Jose Mathew and the confreres of New Delhi Province at the passing away of Fr. Naikampambil Jose, (71) on 1st May 2018.
- ✚ Sr. Mary Mathew P. at the loss of her maternal uncle Mr. Cheriyan Joseph, (93) on 7th May 2018.
- ✚ Sr. Siljo Mary Johnson at the passing away of her paternal uncle Mr. Francis (50) on 9th May 2018.
- ✚ Sr. Karre Kamala at the passing away of her cousin Velankanni (15) on 23rd April

CONCLUSION OF SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

On 31st May 2018 the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the province will come to a close with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which will be followed by the releasing of souvenir, biography and collage of the departed sisters of the province, collage of the communities, and Kannada translation of Guidelines for Educational Mission (GEM), ADMA rules and regulations and prayers.

As we look forward towards the golden years ahead, let us continue to celebrate Communion, Commitment and Compassion with humble gratitude.

Placing each one of us in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Yours affectionately



Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial.

**A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF ST. MARY MAZZARELLO
& MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS! !!**



“Mary assures us that if we are devoted to her she will count us among her children, cover us with her mantle and shower us with blessings in this world so as to gain heaven for us.”