



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK
Bangalore - India



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

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My dearest Sisters, Affectionate and Prayerful Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

THE V PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The V provincial Chapter was celebrated from 23- 28th October 2019. It was a unique event, where 75 delegates coming from 33 communities of the 4 States, representing the 212 sisters and 9 Novices, who form the rich heritage of our province today. The group was representative of different generations and varied experiences! The oldest among us was 80 years old, while the youngest was 29 years old. Another interesting factor was that all the former Provincials with their vast experience of the life and mission of our province were present for the Chapter. Indeed a rich variety! It was a time of celebration, a time when we gave thanks for the past, a time when we looked for the common good of the province for the future.

I am certain that the Sisters who returned to the communities after the celebration of the V Provincial Chapter would have shared with you their beautiful and wonderful experiences of the six days they spent under the supremacy of the Holy Spirit.

Every corner of the provincial house resembled something of the wedding of Cana. The theme is placed in the journey of **preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Institute** (1872-2022). Grateful to God and to Mary Help of Christians for the great history that we have lived as FMA, we already feel the desire to revive the vocational wealth of our charism, to be more meaningful and contagious in the various contexts of today's world. The Chapter event marks the path of the Institute towards the celebration of the 150th anniversary of its foundation. Together, we will live three years of grace and renewal: in 2019 we prepare for GC XXIV, in 2020 we will celebrate it, and in 2021 we will implement it in the communities.

A lot of time was spent on the study, reflection and sharing on the theme of GC 24: "***Do whatever he tell you***"(John 2:5). ***Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity.*** By proposing this theme Mother General invited us to allow ourselves to be guided by Mary for a **regeneration in the Holy Spirit**, to make our educating communities **generate new life**; communities that bring to Jesus the urgencies of humanity and commit themselves to contribute, in the ever new fruitfulness of the charism, to the miracle of the transformation of daily life.

Do whatever He tells you."(John 2:5).is an answer comprising of five little words spoken by Mary to



the servants after the wine ran out at the wedding. **When the servants did what was told to them something happened. A change ... a transformation the nature of water changed into nature of wine. Many changes will happen in our life too when we listen to what Jesus tells us. As He transformed the water He can transform us too.**

He can take even the most horrible of situations and give them new life, and turn them around. Not just with adequate wine, but **the best wine**. We are that new wine. He can and will take our lives and turn them into new wine. But we have to surrender it. *“Do whatever He tells you.”* Mary, knows well what Jesus wants from us: **our surrender, Our trust, Our faith**. We have to hand it over so that Jesus can do what He thinks best: **restore, rebuild and renew**. He takes all things, and makes them new. Mary teaches us that “doing whatever the Lord asks” can be difficult, requiring prayerful discernment, readiness to surrender our own plans and allowing the Lord to be the Master of our lives. Still, Mary gave an unconditional “Yes” to God’s plan, completely trusting in His goodness. She surrendered not just a thing but her very own self, **“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word”**

Having surrendered everything to the Lord, Mary **generated** new life to the world . **That is Jesus**. Today through the experience of our provincial Chapter , Mary wants all her daughters to become persons and communities who will **generate life** in the present situations of solitude, manipulation, violence, ecological crisis, emptiness... thus filling up with the new wine the dried jars of ourselves, of our youth, women and children with hope, peace, justice and fraternity. The different moments of prayer and the Eucharistic celebration of all the five days, prepared and animated by the different communities were the fruit of assimilation of the Chapter theme.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHAPTER

Rev. Fr. Theophilus sdb, the Director of DBRC guided the day of recollection. He put us into the mood of listening; he said chapter is a celebration of listening. Listening to God, listening to one another and listening to young people. The inaugural opening ceremony and prayer at 05.30 p.m. was led by the Communities of Auxilium Welfare Centre and Sacred Heart Training Centre in a very colourful and meaningful manner. The presence of the Salesian family members added joy to the celebration with their presence. The inaugural Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Fr. Joyce Francis Thonikuzhiyil, Provincial of Bangalore. In his inaugural address he said; Valdocco is not a place. It is an attitude. Don Bosco made an interior journey and in this journey it was Our Lady who accompanied him. We need to maintain an attitude of contemplation because the Lord can reveal Himself and His love at different moments in our journey of life. The Community of Nirmal Jyothi awakened all the members to the significance and importance of the theme; Mary the mother of Jesus was there. The students with their gentle steps led us to the spirit of Cana. All the participants carried water to the altar which in turn would be transformed into new wine. The first day was dedicated to the presentation of the Reports of the past sessennium by the provincial, provincial economist and Directress of CDEW.

The panel with the theme , credibility and visibility of the FMA was co ordinate by Sr. Sangita Rani participated by the Educating community and Salesian family was very enriching and challenging. The paper presentation by Sr. Alice Chacko on the theme ‘Awakening the Vocational fruitfulness of Mornese gave us new insights.



The next two days the commissions studied thoroughly the ‘working document’ and answered the questions. The general assembly approved **the most urgent challenges for our communities, the paths to live the fruitful accompaniment of the young people entrusted to us and the choices that make the communities ‘Synodal’ for a prophetic missionary spirit.** The Chapter also devoted time to discuss about the province matters at the end of which the Deliberations and future proposals were finalized. The concluding Eucharist was officiated by Rev. Fr. Vijaya Bhaskar sdb, provincial of Hyderabad. He concluded his talk by saying **you are all born at Mornese with one single Salesian culture.**

After deep prayer and discernment the delegate and her substitute were elected for 24th General Chapter to be held in 2020. Sr. Margrat Mathai was elected as the delegate and Sr. Sahaya Sangita Rani as substitute.

I congratulate and thank Sr. Margrat Mathai the moderator for the hard work that was done in preparation for the Chapter and for the smooth conduct of the proceedings. Sincere Thanks also to the members of the pre-chapter commission Sr. Elizabeth Pothen, Sr. Josmy Jose, Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani who conducted pre chapter animation in different zones and consolidated the answers. Sincere appreciation to commission moderators and secretaries the chroniclers Sr. Jancy Augustine, Sr. Maria Rajeswari and Sr. Prameela Sundari who compiled the minutes of the day and to all the members of the Chapter for their active involvement and contribution to make the chapter celebration a memorable one. My grateful thanks to Sr. Monica Thomas and the community for taking care of every detail and creating a very conducive atmosphere and facilitating the smooth running of the Chapter, May we continue to ‘walk together’ as Synodal communities bringing joy and hope in the lives of the young people entrusted to our care.

----- CELEBRATIONS -----

ALL SAINTS DAY- 1ST

The saints are model of holiness for us. The charity they lived on earth is still lives on. The witness of their love and sacrifice was not just a onetime act in history. Rather, charity is living and continues to have an effect for the good. Those who have gone before us and now share in the glories of Heaven, in the Beatific Vision, are not gone. Sure, we do not see them and we cannot necessarily hear them speak to us in the physical way they did while on Earth. But they are not gone at all. St. Thérèse of Lisieux said it best when she said, “I want to spend my Heaven doing good on Earth.” The saints in Heaven are in full union with God and make up the Communion of Saints in Heaven, the Church Triumphant! What’s important to note, however, is that even though they are enjoying their eternal reward, they are still very much concerned about us. The saints in Heaven are entrusted with the important task of intercession. Sure, God already knows all our needs and He could ask us to go directly to Him in our prayers. But the truth is that God wants to use the intercession, and therefore, the mediation of the saints in our lives. He uses them to bring our prayers to Him and, in return, to bring His grace to us. They become powerful intercessors for us and participators in God’s divine action in the world.

As we honour these great champions of faith, let’s reflect upon who they are and what role they continue to play in the life of the Church and each one of us.

MONTH OF HOLY SOULS – 2ND

As we celebrate All Souls Day, we are reminded that death is not the end and we commemorate all the faithful who have passed on from this earth, and we recognize the great hope we have of



resurrection. In this month of November, specially dedicated to the Holy Souls, the Church reminds us of our obligation to pray for the deceased. Besides our own dear ones who have already left this world, we have many FMA Sisters who have gone before us, having laboured and lived among us. Let us gratefully remember our dear departed Sisters and let us pray for them during this month. Each of our dear departed manifests a particular aspect of the Spirit of the FMA life and sanctity. Their love for God and for the young people was very much evident in their life. Their faith, their hard work and their selfless service in the mission are to be remembered and cherished. While we pray for them, let us also pray to God through their intercession for all the needs of our province.

BLESSED ARTEMIDE ZATTI SDB -13TH

He left Italy with his family in search of a better life in Argentina, the land dreamed by Don Bosco. There he discovered the Salesian vocation which he lived in a passionate, competent service and with a great love for the sick. For almost fifty years he lived in Viedma, Argentina as an exemplary religious dedicated totally to the service of the needy. What gave depth to all this and what immediately struck those who met him, was his interior life as disciple of Jesus who lived his consecration at every moment of his life in constant union with God and in gospel fraternity. It is remarkable that, with the challenging task he had to do, Artemide never lost the sense of community. He was always present for the daily prayers, moments of fraternal gatherings at table and other occasions for sharing the joy of family which he expressed in a very special way. For him the Salesian community was a place to experience of God and the fraternity of the Gospel. Let his example be an inspiration for us to live our community-communion with greater enthusiasm and love.

CHILDREN'S DAY – 14TH

Children carry the hopes for our brighter tomorrow and the dreams of our happy future. A child can always teach an adult three things: To be happy for no reason, To be always busy with something and Know how to demand with all his might what you want. As we wish children let us pray that May the innocence in their smiles and the purity of their hearts stay forever unfaded.

BL. MADALENE MORANO- 15TH

We celebrate the liturgical Feast of Bl. Madeleine Morano on the 15th. She was already an experienced teacher and catechist when, following Don Bosco's advice, she set about fulfilling the dream of consecrating her life to God, which she had cherished since her First Communion. In 1879 she became a Salesian Sister and asked God for the grace "of living until she had completed her journey to holiness. Let us learn from her how to be authentic educators, catechists and evangelizers.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR – 17TH

November 17, 2019 marks the third annual World Day of the Poor. "The hope of the poor shall not perish forever" (Ps 9:19). The Lord does not abandon those who seek him and call upon his name: "He does not forget the cry of the poor" (Ps 9:12), for his ears are attentive to their voice. The hope of the poor defies deadly situations, for the poor know that they are especially loved by God, and this is stronger than any suffering or exclusion. Poverty does not deprive them of their God-given dignity; they live in the certainty that it will be fully restored to them by God himself, who is not indifferent to



the lot of his lowliest sons and daughters. Pope Francis in his message for the world day of the Poor (13th June 2019) exhorts us: If the disciples of the Lord Jesus wish to be genuine evangelizers, they must sow tangible seeds of hope. I ask all Christian communities, and all those who feel impelled to offer hope and consolation to the poor, to help ensure that this World Day of the Poor will encourage more and more people to cooperate effectively so that no one will feel deprived of closeness and solidarity. May you always treasure the words of the prophet who proclaims a different future: “For you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings” (Mal 3:20 [4:2]). It is suitable time to read and reflect the message of our Holy Father for the day of the poor. Let us encourages parishes around the world to join in solidarity with people who are poor in their communities through a communal action, like praying together or sharing a meal.

CHRIST THE KING – 24th

The Feast of Christ the King reminds us of the great truth that Christ must be in charge of our lives that we must give him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will. In every moral decision we face, there's a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas, and the one who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” Let us ask ourselves the question, "What does Jesus, my King, want me to do or say in this situation?" Are we praying each day that our King will give us the right words to say to the people we meet that day, words that will make us true ambassadors of Jesus? Does our community life as well as the way we conduct ourselves with our others come under the Kingship of Jesus? Or do we try to please ourselves rather than him?

MAMMA MARGARET 25th

Margaret was a woman of great faith. God was foremost in her thoughts and always on her lips.

The love of the Lord was so strong in her that it gave her a mother's heart. A wise teacher, she knew how to combine fatherliness and motherhood, kindness and firmness, vigilance and trust, familiarity and dialogue, bringing up her children with disinterested love, both patient and demanding. Attentive to their own experience, she trusted both in human means and divine assistance. She brought up three children with very different temperaments, using the same criteria with different methods. Mamma Margaret's presence turned the Oratory into a family. For ten years, her life became entwined with that of her son and with the beginnings of the Salesian work. She was the first, and principal, Co-operator of Don Bosco's; she became the maternal element in the Preventive System. Without realizing it, she was the “co-foundress” of the Salesian Family.

NOVENA TO THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On 29th November we begin the novena for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Novena to the Immaculate Conception is a custom that flourished in the Church as a way of preparing for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. “The divine Motherhood of Mary is the source of all the perfections and privileges with which she is endowed. Because of it, she was conceived immaculate and is full of grace; because of it, she is ever virgin, she was taken up body and soul to heaven and has been crowned Queen of all creation, above the angels and saints. Greater than she, none but God. "The **KEY** to understanding **MARY** is this: We do not start with Mary. We start with Christ, the Son of the Living God! The less we think of Him, the less we think of her; the more we think of Him, the more we think of her; the more we adore His Divinity, the more we venerate her



Motherhood; the less we adore His Divinity, the less reason we have for respecting her"

‘The Blessed Virgin from the fact that she is the Mother of God has a certain infinite dignity which comes from the infinite good, which is God.’ There is no danger of exaggerating. We can never hope to fathom this inexpressible mystery; nor will we ever be able to give sufficient thanks to our Mother for bringing us into such intimacy with the Blessed Trinity.

Sr. Margrat Mathai will be sending Novena practices for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In the school of Mary let us learn to imbibe the qualities of daughters, Sisters and Mothers.

SEASON OF ADVENT – Dec. 1st

We begin this season of Advent with a journey of discovering Jesus, discovering Mary, and encountering the living God in our daily lives. Advent causes us to change our attitudes to our lives, which are set in a proper perspective, seen from their end. We are no longer preparing for promotion or success or achievement as ends in themselves but humbly waiting on the Lord, seeking success or promotion or achievement only so far as these things promote His kingdom and His will in the world as all things move towards their consummation in Him. May our faith be refreshed as we prepare ourselves and open to God's love during this Holy season of Advent.

----- COMMUNICATIONS -----

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF FMA PRESENCE IN INDIA- 1922- 2022

We are blessed and privileged to live in this historic time as we prepare ourselves for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute that rose in Mornese on 5th August, 1872 and the Centenary celebration of FMA presence in India. The PCI has given some proposals for the celebration of the Centenary. The General theme is:

With Mary through the Course of the Century (1922 - 2022) and beyond

2019- 20

Give thanks: “Let us truly thank the Lord who gives us many graces” (L 37, 10)

Living our FMA identity with gratitude

2020 – 21

Accept the mandate: “I entrust them to you”

Reviving the family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion”

2021- 22

Plan the future boldly: “Courage! Let us go ahead with a great and generous heart” (L 47, 12)

Prophets and witnesses for a transformed society in the style of synodality.

On 22nd November 2019 let us begin with a meaningful celebration in our communities the preparation for the centenary of FMA presence in India.

CONGRATULATIONS



Hearty congratulations to Sr. Mathai Margrat, the delegate to GC XXIV and the substitute Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMERS' MEETING - Rome

Sr. Saly Abraham, the Provincial Economist will be participating in the new Economers' course in our Generalate from 04 - 24 November 2019. Sr. Josmy Jose also will be attending an updating course on Plat form from 18th – 23rd November. Sr. Saly will leave for Rome on 1st November and Sr. Josmy on 17th. After the course from Rome they will be visiting a few of our benefactors in Europe. Let us support them with our special prayers everyday and we wish them *Buon Viaggio!*

JUNIORS RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION

The temporary professed sisters will have a day of recollection on 9th November followed by animation on 10th November. It is a unique chance to grow in one's formation and climb the ladder of sanctity.

MEETING OF MIRACLE FOUNDATION

Sr. Celine Jacob will be attending a meeting organized by the Miracle Foundation in Kodambakkam on 24th November.

FMA PROVINCIALS RETREAT IN SRILANKA

All the FMA provincial's of India will be making their annual retreat from 29th November to 9th December in Srilanka. I request your valuable prayers for us that all of us may have a deeper experience of the Lord.

CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS

- ✚ To our dear Sr. Annie Kottaram at the sudden demise of her brother in-law on 07th October 2019.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala and all the sisters of INM Province at the sudden death of Sr. Rayappan Antonia on 08th October 2019.
- ✚ To our dear Sr. Mary Manjil at the loss of her dear brother Mr. Kurian on 09th October 2019.
- ✚ To our dear Sr. Sheela Jacob at the loss of her maternal aunt on 11 October 2019.
- ✚ To the SDB, and FMA Provinces of Shillong at the sad and unexpected death of Most Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, DD (68), Archbishop of Shillong who passed away in a car accident at Colusa County, Oakland in California, USA on 10 October, 2019.
- ✚ To the Provincial and Salesians of INM province at the sad demise of Fr. Martin Sowriappan on 23rd October 2019.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES

- ❖ For the brother in-law of Sr. Elsy Majuran
- ❖ Brother of Sr. Annie Kottaram bishop emeritus Mathew Anikuzhikattil



- ❖ The brother in-law of Sr. Sheela Jacob
- ❖ The priest brother of Sr. Sumi Joseph who is undergoing treatment
- ❖ For Fr. Antony Mookkanthottathil Priest brother of Sr. Cecily Thomas

CONCLUSION

Our dear Mother General reminds us in her circular No. 991- At Valdocco and at Mornese, the climate of Salesian joy was at home and became an irresistible invitation to share the experience of following Jesus radically. We recall the simple and attractive expression: “Here we make holiness consist in being very happy” (Domenic Savio); “My one desire is to see you happy in time and in eternity” (Don Bosco). Mother Mazzarello wrote to a young Novice, “Courage and always have great cheerfulness which is the sign of a heart that really loves the Lord very much.” (L 60: 5) For her, joy is the expression of love. Those who love can only be cheerful.

Our Founders were true ‘seekers’ and ‘promoters’ of happiness in the young. With acute pedagogical intuition they knew how to make them experience the taste for joy as a point of departure and as the goal to reach holiness.

In a splendid synthesis of consecration and mission, Mother Mazzarello is vigilant so that every relationship is the expression of sweetness and of joy. Hers is the heart of a mother who speaks with deep humanity to the heart of the girls and sisters.

We too, are called to be mothers who generate life, especially where there is need of a supplement of joy and of hope. Today requires a *dynamic generativity* which sets in motion, which arouses joy and vocational fervor.

Dear sisters, in order to be fruitful we need to be mothers and as such, courageous in daring to witness with our life that following Jesus is the most beautiful dream.

Experience tells us that daring to make demanding and audacious proposals that point to high goals, arouses questions in those who receive them and does good to those who propose them.

Let us remember what Pope Benedict told us, “The Church does not grow through proselytism but through attraction.” This is the way it is for every pastoral and vocational journey!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob

Provincial

