



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Province - INK
Bangalore - India**



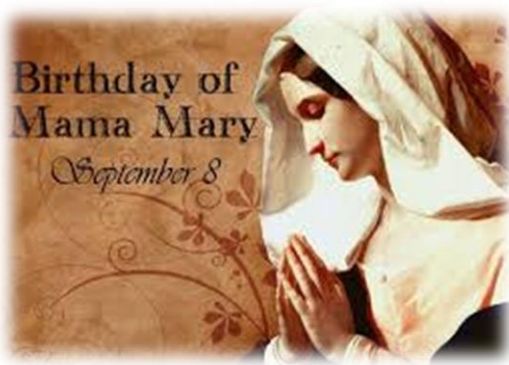
PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

XXVIII/4

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My dearest Sisters, Loving & Prayerful Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!

AS we step into the month of September, I wish you a very happy feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The Catholic Church celebrates it on September 8, exactly nine months after the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception. Mary's birth lies at the confluence of the two Testaments – bringing to an end the stage of expectation and the promises and inaugurating the new times of grace and salvation in Jesus Christ. Mary, the Daughter of Zion and ideal personification of Israel, is the last and most worthy

representative of the People of the Old Covenant but at the same time she is “the hope and the dawn of the whole world.” With her, the elevated Daughter of Zion, after a long expectation of the promises, the times are fulfilled and a new economy is established (LG 55). The birth of Mary is ordained in particular toward her mission as Mother of the Saviour. Her existence is indissolubly connected with that of Christ: it partakes of a unique plan of predestination and grace. God's mysterious plan regarding the incarnation of the Word embraces also the Virgin who is His Mother. In this way, the Birth of Mary is inserted at the very heart of the History of Salvation. As we celebrate her feast, let us spend some time with her individually and as a community, listening to her, for she will tell us how to be friends and mothers to the young and pray for the eradication of spreading of this deadly virus from this earth.

I am happy that the Media Sector of the province is active in animating all the communities by the evening get together around Our Blessed Mother and encouraging the sisters to shower on her numerous hail Marys all throughout the day. God bless you dear Sr. Monica Thomas and Sr. Jisha Abraham for this wonderful initiative during this novena!

Let's celebrate!

- 05 - St Teresa of Calcutta / Teachers' Day
- 06 - Bl. Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell
- 08 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child's Day
- 12 - Holy Name of Mary
- 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
- 21 - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 22 - Bl. Joseph Calasanz & Enrico SaizApricio SDB & Co
- 24 - Our Lady of Ransom
- 29 - Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel



FMA PCI FORMATORS' MEET

Even though there are many gloomy sides to the Covid-19, there are also some constructive sides to it. Many virtual meetings are taking place all over the world. One of such meeting was five days Zoom meeting conducted by the PCI Formation from 24-28 August 2020, to reflect about the action plans proposed during the FMA PCI 2019.

Sr. Tamizharasi Kanikaraj of INM, the National Coordinator for Formation, efficiently conducted the meeting with a three day sharing on —*Psychology of relationships*‖. The rest of the days were spent on discussion and sharing on the itinerary of the initial formation and suggestions for the ongoing formation as lived and shared in the different Indian Provinces based on the document ‘**Guidelines for the Formation Period of Temporary Vows**’. Other sessions were ably presented by Sr. Rita Dora, INB Provincial & PCI Vice President, Sr. Michael Cruz of Trichy Province and Sr. Philomena D’ Souza of Mumbai. The topics were: the *Guidelines for Itinerary of on-going formation*, *Itinerary for the community to accompany the Junior Sisters*’ and *Guidelines for inculturating the document*’ respectively. The group was enriched by the messages from Sr. Nieves Reboso, General Councillor for formation and Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the Visiting Councillor at the beginning and end of the meeting. Besides the formation team, animators of communities where there are temporary professed sisters also participated in the meeting. The formation team will share with all the animators online the highlights of the Meet.

Congratulations and thanks to Sr. Margaret Amalanathan, the P.C.I. President and Sr. Tamizharasi Kanikaraj, National Coordinator for formation for this initiative which has boosted the journey of initial and ongoing formation in the provinces.

PCI PROVINCIALS' MEETING

All the 7 provincials of PCI had yet another short Zoom meeting with Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil from Rome on 29 August. After a short message, she shared news about the preparation for GC XXIV and exhorted us to study the working document by all the sisters. Further information is awaited from the Centre.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sr. Rosily Theckanath has successfully defended her thesis on 24th August and is awarded by the Vice – Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Her doctoral study on Education is on the topic “A comparative study of the strategies followed by Salesian and Model schools in Andhra and Telangana in developing life skills in students”. Hearty Congratulations to you dear Sr.Rosily. We are proud of you!

MEETINGS & TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED

- ❖ On 24th of August 2020, at 2:00 PM Sr. Anna Thayil, Sr. V.J Mary. Sr. Bridget Jacob, Sr. Lizy Scaria, Sr. Diana and Sr. Jacintha participated in the **Online meeting** organized by Sr. Runita G. Borja FMA, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, **Sr. Lolia Annie Pfozhumai Neliand Sr. Moksha** of Mumbai Province the National YaR Co - Ordinator. The participants of this unique meeting were the Province YaR Coordinator, Province Youth Ministry Coordinator and Sisters working in YaR Centres. The objective of this online meeting was **to strengthen our communion as FMA-PCI and with the Institute through the sharing of our experience of the pandemic and how it is reshaping our mission in favour of children, youth and young women at risk**. Sr. Jacintha presented the report of 7 YaR Centers of our Province on the following points

During this pandemic: The challenges faced, the opportunities encountered, responses/Solutions/Good practices, How do you envision the future?

- ❖ **Life Skill Education Training - Miracle Foundation**

I am glad to inform that 08 communities of our Province are partners with “Miracle Foundation. There are many meetings already held at CMT, MT, and CCI levels. Right now, 20 Sisters & Staff are being systematically trained by the Transcend Team under the direction of Miracle Foundation. This online Training lasts for a year and our Sisters and the Staff would become the

“Trainers of Life Skill Education” in the Province. The participants are happy about their excellent presentations, resource materials, and feedback system.

- ❖ All the sisters in charge of Social Ministry and VTC had a Webinar on Capacity Building on 08th August by Sr. Rosy Lopez the directress of CDEW.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Provincial council, Bangalore on 6 & 7th September
- ❖ Zoom Meeting of Formation Team on 9th September
- ❖ One day online animation for animators of communities on 10th September
- ❖ Region wise online meeting for animators, H.Ms & Economers 11&12th September
- ❖ Capacity building for staff & Sisters of the Social Ministry Sector on 5th September on the theme Laudato SÌ' by Sr. Alice Chacko
- ❖ Planning for Self employment for Quest Centres on 8th September.
- ❖ Webinar on NCP by Sr. Ashalatha and sr. Rosy on 12th September.
- ❖ There is a webinar on Income Generation Programme for women in the 4 centres - Maradiyur, Thope, Kanakakunnu and Puthiyathura on 19th September.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES

- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Mercy Thomas
- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Lucy Michael
- ❖ For all the elderly and ailing sisters and dear ones of the sisters
- ❖ For the eradication of Corona Virus from the face of the earth and for all the people who are affected by it.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

I take this opportunity to thank you dear sisters for your closeness and prayerful support at the sudden demise of my elder brother. Kindly continue to support the family with your powerful prayers as well as I request your continued prayers for my second brother for his speedy recovery.

- ✚ To dear Sr. Madhuri Panem at the loss of her beloved mother Mrs. Swarna Mary on 3 August 2020.
- ✚ To Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB, provincial and the confreres of Kolkata Province at the sudden demise of Fr. Thomas Kanjirathumkal & Fr. Reginald Thomas D'Silva on 16 August.
- ✚ To Sr. Leena Crasta at the sudden demise of her cousin sister on 20th August 2020.

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

MARIAN IDENTITY WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTIONS & OTHER SOURCES

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of our Institute and the Centenary preparation, we are in a journey of deepening the identity of the FMA. This month we shall reflect on the Marian identity of the FMA.

On the day of its birth on August 5, 1872, the Institute received from its Founder, Don Bosco the *name: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians* and the *symbol of identity: living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians*. The history of the Institute, from its beginning to the present time, can be seen as a process of realization of the *symbol of identity* received from the Founder as a precious patrimony. The life of the DMHC is the space where this symbol is manifested, the place where the ideal is incarnated as it unveils itself in a dynamic fidelity towards the horizon of the future. and this space is in continuous growth, opening itself to a multi-cultural horizon. With the renewal urged by the Second Vatican Council, the Institute committed itself to rediscover its identity in the light of the Gospels, in fidelity to its charism and with the attention to the 'signs of the times'. We read in art.4 of the Constitutions:

Don Bosco wanted us to be a «living monument» of his gratitude to Mary Help of Christians and asks us to extend his thanks throughout all time.

1.1. IN DON BOSCO

The historical memoirs of the Institute have constantly affirmed Don Bosco's explicit intention to form the DMHC as his *living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians*. The following sources attest to this affirmation. During the Informative Process for the Beatification of Mother Mazzarello, Father Francesco Cerruti, who was the Director General of the Salesian Schools for thirty-one years, gave this testimony:

I had the good fortune to know Don Bosco intimately from 1857 until his death on January 31, 1888. I remember him saying: «We owe many great debts of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians. What we are and what we have done, we owe to her. Because of this, I want to dedicate a perennial and an immortal *monument of gratitude to this good Mother*. This monument will be the *Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*».

The *Chronicles of the Institute* recounts that on the day the Institute was born (August 5, 1872) and during the first profession of the first group of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians which included Mother Mazzarello, the Founder, Don Bosco addressed them with the following words:

Let your beautiful title of DMHC be your glory and often think that your Institute is to be a «living monument» of Don Bosco's gratitude to the great Mother of God under the title of Help of Christians.

Such intention and testimony was cited also by Father Ferdinand Maccono in the biography he wrote on St. Mary Mazzarello. The Founder, Don Bosco, wanted the new religious to have the beautiful name of DMHC because, as he later explained in moving tones he wanted the Institute of the DMHC to be a monument of perpetual gratitude for the singular favours he had received from such a good Mother.

1.2. IN MARY DOMENICA MAZZARELLO

How did Mary Domenica Mazzarello, the cornerstone of the Institute, understand and transmit this explicit intention of Don Bosco?

One can find no explicit reference by Mother Mazzarello to the DMHC as a «living monument» of thanks to Mary neither in her letters nor in her conferences as documented by the *Chronicles of the Institute* nor in the biographies written about her. Instead, there is a similar and equivalent expression that she used to express the same idea, that of being called to be the *living image* of Mary.

In a goodnight talk to the Sisters after some practical and sincere recommendations on the practice of chastity motivated by love for the Blessed Mother, she ended saying that the DMHC should reflect Mary's image as Don Bosco would want us to. This simple expression contains a depth of significance which shows how Mary Mazzarello understood, lived and transmitted not only Don Bosco's desire for the Institute but the particular charismatic design of the Holy Spirit for this religious family which is totally Mary's.

The influence of the association of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate enlightened her devotion to Mary and penetrated her being inculcating in her a fundamental attitude of spiritual configuration to Mary. In many different ways, through a simple and concrete language Mother Mazzarello exhorted the Sisters to reproduce in themselves the interior attitudes and virtues of Mary, to be Daughters and living images of her. For example, in a letter addressed to the first missionaries in Villa Colon and Las Piedras, Montevideo, she reminded the Sisters to prepare themselves for the approaching feast of Mary Immaculate. She gave two motivations why the feast should be celebrated with solemnity: because the Rules ask for it, but above all because they were Daughters of Mary. Then she went on to give practical recommendations on how to prepare for the feast. She invited the Sisters «to plant beautiful flowers in our hearts in order to be able to offer to our dear Mother a bouquet on her feast».

The Marian devotion of Mother Mazzarello is *to be a living image of our Lady*, practicing the virtues dear to her: humility, obedience and purity, establishing with her a true and filial confidence, living a simple piety without adding anything but that of doing one's duty at the right time and place. Her Marian devotion brings to a true and profound Christo centric life concretized in a continuous and constant sacramental life. This is one proof of how Mary brings every believer and disciple to Christ.

1.3. IN THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is reminded by the Superiors about the Marian identity recalling Don Bosco's desire that we be his «living monument» of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians.

A. *Fr. Philip Rinaldi (1922- 1931)*

He pointed out how Don Bosco desired to model his monument on the Holy Virgin in the imitation of the humility of Jesus, adding that «a DMHC who is not truly humble, will not represent her Mother and will not honour her in the right way». Then he presented how every DMHC should follow in the footsteps of the first DMHC, Mother Mazzarello, who in her simplicity guided the community of Mornese, model of every community of the Institute, in the practice of a true and joyful poverty and in the love for the hidden life.

During a homily for the Holy Hour of August 5, 1922, Father Rinaldi reminded the DMHC of the end to which Don Bosco willed the Institute, that is, to erect a living monument which would testify to the world, throughout the centuries, his gratitude to the Blessed Mother. Concretely such an end is achieved if every Daughter renders Mary «alive», extending her help throughout the world. Finally, in a circular letter addressed to the DMHC, Father Rinaldi explained:

The thought of Don Bosco in founding the Institute was that every Sister be a faithful copy of Mary, in such a way that seeing her one could exclaim, 'Such would be the way the Blessed among women would have been and would have acted!' He concluded saying: Every DMHC should therefore try her best to imitate with the utmost perfection possible the virtues of Mary: her immaculate purity, her profound humility, her heroic spirit of sacrifice and especially her active goodness.

B. Fr. Aloysius Ricceri (1965- 1977)

During the centenary of the consecration of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians (1868-1968), Fr. Ricceri explained in what sense the DMHC is to be a *monument of gratitude*. He pointed out that aside from the Basilica there existed another temple in honor of Mary Help of Christians, a temple made of *living and chosen stones* as mentioned by the liturgy for the dedication of the Church. He explained how:

Every one of these stone bears a name, reflects a face, seals the heart of every DMHC destined to sing in time and in space a hymn of thanksgiving to the Virgin, Mother of the Church and of the Family of Don Bosco, Mother of the Institute. The Basilica may one day be destroyed, but the song of thanksgiving to the Virgin as willed by Don Bosco will never be exhausted, as long as there will be a DMHC who lives , prays and works in a corner of the world.

Then he indicated the double role of the DMHC: as a religious, she should testify to the close and intimate following of Christ; as a DMHC she should witness a perennial and living gratitude to the Virgin. He ends saying that where the Basilica, made of stones and marble, could not reach, the DMHC, made of *living and chosen stones* could come close to everyone who desires to love and thank the Virgin.

C. Mother Luisa Vaschetti (1924-1943)

In a circular letter she reminded the Sisters: We are called and we find ourselves in a Congregation particularly protected by the Holy Virgin, in fact, inspired, willed and guided by her step by step. St. John Bosco in founding our Institute. Let us never forget, it has explicitly intended to elevate a monument of gratitude to Holy Mary, our help. As such, every stone as it was said of the Basilica - should sing the glory of Mary. Each one of us is a stone of this monument. To be a song of glory and of living gratitude to Mary most Holy and Help, we need, dear Sisters, that our life be a faithful imitation and a living copy of her life. Her daughters, shouldn't they be like the Mother, imitating her and living with her same attitudes? Remember that we are called and we are, not Sisters but Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

D. Mother Ersilia Canta (1969- 1981)

In a circular letter, during the centennial celebration of the Institute (1972), Mother Ersilia Canta wrote to the Sisters reminding them that:

Our *Congregation* in fact, is a *Marian congregation* par excellence ... we are dedicated to her, and willed by our holy founder, Don Bosco, to be his «living monument» of gratitude to such a Mother. Our first commitment of gratitude to the Lord and to our Lady, therefore, is to become ever conscious of the

Marian character of our Congregation and to search for its motivation in the history of the Institute. From a more enlightened awareness of being in the Church the prolongation of the mission of Mary, the consequent commitment will be born, that is, to give a new impulse and a more theologically motivated cult to Mary Help of Christians in our houses.

E. Mother Marinella Castagno (1984- 1996)

During the Marian year (1987-1988), which coincided with the centennial year of Don Bosco's death (1888-1988), Mother Marinella Castagno took several occasions through her circular letters to speak about deepening the Marian dimension of our vocation and of the Institute. With regards to the theme of the «*living monument*» of *gratitude to Mary*, she reminded the DMHC that:

We cannot betray our Founder today! We feel in fact that Mary «continues to be actively present in our life and in the history of the Institute» (art. 44) and transforms us to be *Helpers* of the young (cf art.4). If to be in continuous gratitude to God is the condition of every Christian, to be in continuous gratitude to Mary is a constitutive part of our being DMHC.

Dear Sisters, let us ask ourselves, what place Mary occupies in our personal and community life. Let us take some time to reflect about our Marian identity and make practical and concrete decisions so that we may prepare ourselves interiorly for this twin celebrations of our Institute.

Wish you a very happy feast of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & Happy Teachers Day!

Affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

