



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/7

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**My dearest Sisters,
Loving & Prayerful Greetings!**

We have just entered into the season of advent. Advent is an attitude of anticipation. The entire season prepares us to allow Christ into our hearts, sometimes in ways far different from other times when we celebrate the “excitement of December.” Advent looks back in order to look forward. Celebration of the first coming of Christ in the stable at Bethlehem has meaning and purpose because of hope and expectation of His second coming on the clouds of glory. Christmas is not sterile memorial of a thing past and gone, but effectual preparation for what is to come. So we turn again to God’s grace, for we can never ourselves be ready. 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. It concludes in the great celebration of the incarnation; ending at the beginning with a renewed zeal and hope in the life of Christ. Let us take keen interest to prepare our hearts and minds with spiritual bouquet for baby Jesus. May the liturgical season of Advent enable us to cleanse our hearts and enrich our lives to prepare for the Birthday of Jesus. Let us welcome the nativity of Christ as an event capable of today renewing our existence. May the encounter with the Child Jesus make us people who do not think only of ourselves, but rather open to the expectations and necessities of our brothers and sister. In this way we too become testimonies of the light that Christmas radiates over the humanity of the third millennium. Let us ask most holy Mary, the



tabernacle of the incarnate Word, and St. Joseph, silent witness of the events of salvation, to communicate to us the sentiments they had while they awaited the birth of Jesus, so that we can prepare ourselves to celebrate in a holy way the coming Christmas, in the joy of faith and enlivened by the determination of a sincere conversion. May the spirit of Christmas brings you peace: the gladness of Christmas give you hope: and the warmth of Christmas grant you love. Wishing you each one of you a Grace filled and Joyful Christmas 2020.

Towards Centenary

As FMA India we have entered into the second year of preparation for the centenary of our presence in India on 22 November 2020 with the theme: **“I entrust them to you.” Reviving the Family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion.** Dear Sisters I wish to focus this month, on the distinctive and prized call we have received from our Master Jesus, ‘for living and working together in the name of the Lord, which is an essential element of our Salesian, religious vocation’ (Art.49). It is a call to serve the Lord in gladness in a deeply rooted **FAMILY SPIRIT**.

We, consecrated, religious are meant for community living, we are not meant for isolation. Isolation and independence is a contradiction to religious life. We have been called and set apart to live our faith in and with a community. Let us pause and reflect on these verses from the letter of St. Paul which will help us to respect the diverse role each one plays in our community. He wrote in his letter to Corinthians (1 Cor 12-14) “The body is not to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, “I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body” would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say “I am not an eye and so I do not belong to the body,” would that mean that it was not a part of the body?...God has put all the separate parts into the body on purpose...Now you together are Christ’s body, but each of you is a different part of it.”

Challenges in living the community life

Every FMA is called to live in community as its member not as a number. Our way of life in our religious community is one of many expressions of the common life in the Body of Christ. We can be confident that Christ has called us into a particular community because he knows that the challenges and the gifts it offers are the very ones we need for the working out of our salvation and grow in perfection as our holy founders desired.

The first challenge of community life is to accept whole-heartedly the authority who is the representative of Christ Himself. Our community is not formed by the natural attraction of like-minded people. We are

given to one another by Christ and he calls us to accept one another as we are. Mutual acceptance and love call us to value our differences of background, temperament, gifts, personality, style, caste, culture, age and imperfections. Only when we recognize them as sources of energy and vitality, are we able to let go of competitiveness and jealousy.

We are also called to accept with compassion and humility the particular fragility, complexity and incompleteness of each brother. Our diversity and our brokenness mean that tensions and friction are inevitably woven into the fabric of everyday life. They are not to be regarded as signs of failure. Christ uses them for our conversion as we grow in mutual forbearance and learn to let go of the pride that drives us to control and reform our sisters on our own terms.

In John's gospel the community of disciples is portrayed as a circle of Christ's friends, abiding in him in obedience and love, and depending on the Advocate who leads them together into the truth. Our faithfulness to our calling will be seen in the ways in which we fearlessly subject our life in the light of the gospel, minister to one another generously as equals, and stay open to the fresh inspiration of the Spirit.

Because community life provides so completely for all our basic needs we must rise to the challenge of making sure that our sense of personal responsibility stays strong. Community life is arduous, and not an escape from the toil of earning a living. It is essential that work is distributed in such a way that each sister shares in its demands to the full extent of her ability.

Five Qualities we need to possess to enjoy and value the company of each member of the community: Willing Participation, Co-responsibility, Mutual Communication, Honest exchange of ideas, A Harmonious integration of Personal Values

Let's seek to be a community that grows like the mustard seed and becomes a place where the lost, the broken and the lonely can perch in its shade – a community that knows the Lord, where people really matter, and where we enjoy the leadership of our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep. May our communities, dear sisters, be the house of the love of God like that of the community of Mornese.

During these years of preparation for the centenary of FMA India, we are given abundant opportunities to renew ourselves in all aspects of our vocational and charismatic identity. Let us snatch these opportunities with great enthusiasm and openness to grow in fidelity to our vocation.

Practice: Interiorizing and living the profile of the FMA

Study: *Diamond Years Volume 2*

Let our preparation towards centenary celebrations enable us to become more grateful to God for our Salesian vocation and to the pioneers for bringing the charism to our Indian soil. They have made untold sacrifices in order to put a strong foundation for the FMA presence in India. As we recall the past and Rejoice over it let us Renew ourselves personally and as communities thus passing on to the younger generations what we have seen, heard and experienced .

STRENNA 2021 - “Moved by hope: “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev 21: 5)

In the Strenna 2021, the Rector Major underlines and reaffirms that, in the face of this harsh and painful reality with its heavy consequences, we continue to express the certainty of being moved by hope: because God in his Spirit continues to make “all things new.” Pope Francis invited the world to be infected with “the necessary antibodies of justice, charity, and solidarity, for reconstruction after the days of the pandemic. How much pain is being experienced in the world right now is undeniable.

A MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT CAPABLE OF “DOING ALL THINGS NEW” (Rev 21:5)

Christian faith continually shows how God, through his Spirit, accompanies the history of humanity, even in the most adverse and unfavorable conditions. In the history of salvation God never abandons his people; he always remains united with them, especially when the pain becomes very strong: “Behold, I am doing something new: right now it is sprouting, don’t you notice it? (Is 43:19).”

This time and this situation will undoubtedly be propitious for

- ❖ becoming aware of the suffering of many people;
- ❖ paying attention to the many constant and silent epidemics such as the hunger that so many suffer, complicity in wars, lifestyles that enrich some and impoverish millions of people;
- ❖ asking ourselves whether we can live—those among us who have more—with a more sober and austere lifestyle;



- ❖ seriously considering that our world, the whole of creation, suffers, gets sick, while continuing to deny the evidence;
- ❖ realizing how important it is “to unite the whole human family in the pursuit of integral and sustainable development.”

From Circular No. 1003

In Circular No.1003 Mother Yvonne invites the FMA communities to live fraternity in the style of service that becomes welcoming and sharing with the sisters and young people, especially the poorest, and to invent with creativity new forms of service and solidarity: *“From the community inhabited by Love, fraternity radiates towards the geographical and existential peripheries, which call for listening, care, education”*.

The mandate **“I entrust them to you”**, which accompanies the second year of preparation for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute, is an appeal to involvement in the evangelizing mission, following the example of Mary, to be her “true images” in the world, in the awareness that to each one is entrusted with many brothers and sisters and that *“true fraternity is always universal”*. The entrance into the new Liturgical Year and Advent are propitious times to live hope and welcome the Lord Jesus into one’s life as the Saviour that the world needs today.



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| 03rd | - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER |
| 05th | - BL. PHILIP RINALDI |
| 08th | - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION |
| 10th | - Human Rights Day |
| 12th | - Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| 25th | - CHRISTMAS |
| 26th | - ST. STEPHEN |
| 27th | - ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE |
| 27th | - HOLY FAMILY |
| 28th | - HOLY INNOCENTS |



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL CHAPTER XXIV

I am sure all the communities are enthusiastically studying the Working Document and the other materials that are sent to you. On 11th December (5.30- 7.p.m) there will be a webinar organized by Sr. Margaret Mathai, the delegate to the General Chapter, who will enlighten the communities on the study materials and the mode of answering them. You can profit from this occasion to clarify any doubts that you may have, so that our contribution to GCXXIV may be valid, creative and far sighted.

SILVER JUBILARIANS RENEWAL COURSE

Sr. Arogyam Madanu, Sr. Lissimol Joseph and Sr. Sheeja Jose are participating in the renewal programme at Dhyana Sadhana, Mysore, from 1 to 8 December 2020, which will give them the opportunity to reflect about the fidelity of God and thank Him for the past twenty five years and also to recommit themselves to the mission entrusted to them. Let us pray that they may have a fruitful experience.

GREEN ACTION WEEK 2020

CDEW Society organised Green Action Week 2020 in collaboration with CUTS International on 3rd December 2020 at Kaverinagar (Bangalore). Awareness programme on Solid Waste Management, Organic Manure preparation and the theme of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle was conducted. 20 Bins were distributed to 20 women for preparing organic manure out of kitchen waste. 20 youth participated in Cycle rally disseminating the same message round the village. Mr. George Cheriyan, Director of CUTS International, Jaipur was the chief guest.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Hearty congratulations to the resource persons for the WEBINAR ON SALESIAN PEDAGOGY by Sr. Nirmala Mummadi, Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani, Sr. Lilly Perumpettikunnel (INC) and Sr. Stella Potteparambil (INC) for their proficient presentation on the Preventive System of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, the Salesian Pedagogy lived by Bl. Michael Rua and Mother Ersilia Canta. All the FMA's India had a wonderful and fruitful time. May this study and reflection enable us to deepen our spirituality and Charism.

PRAYERS REQUEST FOR THE SICK SISTERS & DEAR ONES

- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Rosely Devassy
- ❖ For the brother of Sr. Theresa Thomas who is seriously ill and undergoing treatment
- ❖ For the brother and sister of Sr. Rosy Malayatty
- ❖ For the father of Sr. Florence Leivon
- ❖ For the mother of Sr. Theresa Augustine
- ❖ For the father of Sr. Teresa Rayapudi

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To dear Sr. Mercy Thomas at the loss of her beloved mother on 17 November 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Bridget Kavalam at the sudden loss of her brother-in-law on 27 October 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Jacintha Lobo at the demise of her paternal uncle on 17 November 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Dunna Josemary at the sudden death of her dear brother on 18 November 2020.
- ✚ To Sr. Elizabeth George and the Sisters of INS at the passing away of dear Sr. Percynia Synnah on 20 November 2020.
- ✚ To Fr. Pauria Joseph SDB, and the confreres of INC Province at the demise of Fr. Sebastian Alancheriyil SDB on 25 and Fr. Varghese Kalluvachel (KC) SDB on 26 November 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Amala Priya at the passing away of her paternal aunt on 30 November 2020.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Rosely Devassy at the loss of her maternal uncle on 02 December 2020.

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

CONCLUSION

The Immaculate Conception refers to the belief that Mary, by a special divine favour, was without sin from the first moment of her conception. Prepared by God from the very first moment of her life to receive Jesus Christ in her womb, God's grace preserved Mary from sin from the womb to the end of her life – because of her role in the mystery of salvation as the mother of God. Her “yes” to the invitation to be the mother of Jesus was her continuing commitment to doing God's will.

When we honour Mary under the title “Immaculate Conception,” we recognize in her a model of purity, innocence, trust, reverence, and respect – living peacefully aware of God's presence in her life even when she didn't understand all that her “yes” would entail.

While we were not conceived without sin as was Mary, and do not live our entire lives spinelessly as did Mary, we can, like Mary, choose to say “yes” to God's will. We say yes to God when we put another's well-being before our own wants; when we take time to hear God's will for us through Scripture, through

others, and through prayer and the celebration of the Mass and the sacraments. We say yes to God's will when we let go of our fears and grow in awareness of God's presence to us and within us.

Wish you a very Happy Feast of Immaculate Conception!

We are coming to the close of 2020 with mixed feelings. let us look back at all that has occurred. Some Good. Some not so Good. We have gone through and still going on the crisis of COVID 19 and its consequences. Everything has taught us some lessons. One of the positive signs was more time for retreats, prayer, and webinars from different sectors. Let us thank the good Lord for his protection and accompaniment all through this year 2020 and eagerly await the New Year 2021 with **open hands** and **prayerful hearts**.

Affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

Wishing You

**JOYFILLED CHRISTMAS & GRACE
FILLED NEW YEAR - 2021**

