



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

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



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SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

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My dearest Sisters, Wishing each one of you a very JOYFUL EASTER!

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! Saying these words is like drinking a tall glass of cold water after being out in the desert all day. Lent is over and it is now time to celebrate the great joy of Easter! On Easter, we remember the love Christ showed mankind when he gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. He is risen from the dead, so we truly have reason to celebrate!

Life messages:

1) We are to be Resurrection people: Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a “Resurrection people.” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, and dangerous addictions. It gives us the Good News that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement, doubt or death itself. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad”* (Psalm 118:24).

2) We need to seek peace and joy in the Risen Jesus: The living presence of the Risen Lord gives us lasting peace and celestial joy in the face of the boredom, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life. *“Peace be with you!”* was Jesus’ salutation to his disciples at all post-Resurrection appearances. For a true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.

3) We are to be transparent Christians: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others, through our lives of love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrificing service, that the Risen Jesus is living in our hearts.

4) We need to live new, disciplined lives in the Risen Jesus: Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own resurrection, help us *control our thoughts, desires, words and behaviour*. **This salutary thought inspires us to honour our bodies, keeping them holy**, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the Risen Lord in our neighbours, and in all those with whom we come into contact, should encourage us to respect them and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.

5) We need to remember Easter in our Good Fridays: Easter reminds us that every Good Friday will have an Easter Sunday, and that Jesus will let us share the power of his Resurrection. Each time we express our love for others, we share in the Resurrection. Each time we face a betrayal of trust and, with God’s grace, forgive the betrayer, we share in the Resurrection of Jesus. Each time we fail in our attempts to ward off temptations – but keep on trying to overcome them – we share in the Resurrection. Each time we continue to hope – even when our hope seems unanswered – we share in the power of Jesus’ Resurrection. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us – not pain, sin, rejection, betrayal or death – because Christ has conquered all these, and we, too, can conquer them if we put our Faith and trust in Him.

6) **We are to be bearers of the Good News of Resurrection power.** Resurrection is Good News, but at the same time, it is sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the Resurrection can take hold in our own lives, we're called to die to sin and to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: The Risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God's new ways of working in the world. That's the power of the Resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news - just as Mary did: *We have seen the Lord!*



ERECTION OF NEW COMMUNITY

I am happy to inform you that Mother General and her council has confirmed erection of a new community at **Uppal, Hyderabad** which is under the patronage of **St. Joseph**. This bifurcation of the community is done for the better spiritual animation of the sisters and to enhance the extension and development of our mission for the Young at Risk, since both the centres are at two different districts. **Secunderabad Navajeevana at Bhoiguda** will be a separate community under the patronage of **B. Laura Vicuña**'.

NEW PRESENCES

- ❖ Heeding to the repeated call of Pope Francis, "to go to the peripheries" The Provincial Council after much prayer and reflection, has decided to begin a new presence in Gulbarga District in the northern region of the state of Karnataka. Gulbarga is a 15-year-old mission diocese in a remote region with a Catholic community of only 0.1 percent of the total population of about seven million. Many of those seven million people are poverty-stricken with difficult life situations. As we are preparing for the centenary of the FMA presence in Indian soil let this become a memento of our missionary commitment. This presence will be directly under the responsibility of the Provincial house.
- ❖ I am happy to inform you that Mrs & Mr. Thambi Madhurai the parents of our dear Sr. Madhurai Sabrina Florence has offered us the first floor of their newly erected house in Karunagiri Khammam. So the Provincial council has studied the possibilities of Evangelization, vocational Training, youth ministry and family Apostolate with the consent of the Bishop of Khammam. In the month of June we will inaugurate this Centre as a presence, belonging to the community of Provincial House. I express my sincere thanks to Sr. Florence, her brother priest Fr. Arun Madhurai OCD and their beloved and generous parents for their exemplary life and generosity towards us.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ❖ Sr. Florence Levion is attending a Audio-Visual Course at Visvadeep T. C Palaya from 19 March – 10 April 2021.
- ❖ Sr. Rosily Theckanath, Sr. Lucy Appamma will be participating in a course on God Experience through Mystical Prayer, Leadership and Community Building Skills and Re -Visiting the Consecrated Life from 12 April – 01 May 2021 May at Dhyavanava Mysore.
- ❖ Sr. Mary V. J, Sr. Ancy Mathew & Sr. Sherly Puthussery will be participating in a course on Leadership and Community Building Skills from 26 April – 01 May at Dhyavanava Mysore.
- ❖ The Sisters who are doing the intensive Juniorate will attend a course on YOUNG RETLIGIOUS GO FORWARD at NBCLC from 26 April to 08 May 2021.
- ❖ Animators &Economers of Kerala Region will have an Ongoing Formation Programme on Personal Growth and Spiritual development from May 02 to 07 at Angamaly. The Resource person is Rev.Fr. Shanthi Chacko PIME.(This was supposed to be for all the animators of the province but due to the interstate restrictions of travel it is arranged this way)

ANNUAL RETREATS

- ❖ The first Annual Retreat for the Karnataka region will be from 12 – 19 April at Sacred Heart Convent, Bangalore. All are expected to reach provincial house for lunch.
- ❖ The second Annual Retreat for the Kerala region will take place at Angamaly from 15 – 21 April. Sisters are expected to reach the place by 08.00 a.m. The retreat will begin at 10.00 a.m. on 15 April.

II PHASE OF THE II NOVITIATE

Srs. Mary Yash Anthony, Kalpana Amarlapudi and Sushma Korabandi will attend II Phase of the II Novitiate in the provincial house and DBRC, Bannerghatta Bangalore from 12th April to 22nd May. We accompany our dear sisters with prayers as they intensely prepare themselves for their final commitment.

INTENSIVE JUNIORATE

After having spend a year in serious study, reflection, mission experience, manual work, lively liturgical and community celebrations and deep prayer experience our junior sisters will be concluding the Juniorate on 24th April. We pray that all their formative experiences may lead them to true transformation of life.

AUDITING OF SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

Prayerful wishes to Sr. Saly Abraham and all the local Economers as they get ready for the annual auditing of accounts.

16 & 17 April 2021 - Andhra & Telangana Region - Guntur

23 & 24 April 2021 - Kerala Region - Angamaly

05 May 2021 - Karnataka Region - SHC, Bangalore

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the three communities of Guntur, Angamaly and the Provincial House for their hospitality and generous availability.

FEAST OF MOTHER GENERAL– CELEBRATION OF WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

Let us intensify our prayers for our beloved Mother General as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the World Gratitude day on 25th April in Rome “in the pre province “Maria Madre della Chiesa” on the 4th Sunday of the Easter. With the theme NETWORKED FOR A CULTURE OF LIFE, inviting us to reflect on the Word of God “ The net was not torn” Jn 21: 1 - 11. Each community is invited to compose a network of gratitude and hope, posting our messages of gratitude to Mother and commitment to a culture of life on a virtual bulletin board. The gesture of solidarity will be used to support some initiatives aimed at strengthening the ISS – FMA network and for the student Sisters. Let us join with our beloved institute to thank the Lord for the precious gift of our Mother General who weaves bonds of communion with care and wisdom. As we wish our dearest Mother Yvonne and all her collaborators in the Council a very joyful Feast, we turn our gratitude into prayers together with the young people and our lay collaborators. As we join the FMA World in this great celebration, may we rekindle our hearts with kindness and generosity towards everyone who is entrusted to our care in our educative mission.

GOODNEWS

We rejoice with the church and our Institute as Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, from Vasto, Italy is appointed as undersecretary of the Dicastery of Promoting Integral Human Development. Since 2019 she had been a councillor for Vatican city, and since March 2020 coordinator of the Economy Taskforce of the Vatican Commission for COVID 19 established by Pope Francis. May her collaboration with the Church redound to the glory of God and to the needs of the Church and humanity.


FMA INDIA VI HISTORY WRITING MEET

The sixth FMA India Centenary History Team Meeting was held in the Provincial House Auxilium Centre, Bandra, Mumbai from 21 to 26 March 2021. Eight Sisters hailing from seven Provinces took part in the Meeting. Sr. Philo D’souza INB was the coordinator. I thank Sr. Sahaya Sangita Rani who represented our province for the meeting and for the presentation. I also appreciate Sr. Cecilia Thomas for her contribution in this work. We extend our gratitude to Sr. Thomas Rita Dora the Provincial of INB & the Province of Mumbai who hosted the meeting. This meeting enabled the participants to share the work done, clarify their doubts, visit places of historical importance.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO SR.JOSMY JOSE

I am happy to announce that Sr. Josmy Jose has successfully defended her Doctoral Dissertation on 7 April 2021 in the DVK Auditorium , **Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram** , on the theme , *Formation to Interreligious Dialogue: A theological Approach in Forming the Adolescents to Create a Culture of Dialogue*. There was a good representation of sisters from the city Communities of Bangalore and her dear ones and many fathers who participated in the function. The Jury appreciated Sr.Josmy’s academic excellence and conferred on her the Doctorate. As we acknowledge her achievement we also congratulate her for being selected to be part of the faculty at AUXILIUM, ROME. We wish you dear Sr. Josmy God’s Blessings and our prayerful support in your future mission.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

 To dear Sr. Nirmala Lazar and all the sisters of INM at the demise of Sr. Arockianathan Mary Josephine on 09 March and Sr. David Elizabeth on 06 April 2021.

- ✚ To dear Sr. Rita Dora Thomas and all the sisters of INB at the unexpected death of Sr. Sherly Mary Chacko on 21 March 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Mary Mathew K at the lost of her maternal uncle Mr. Lukose on 27 March 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Crescentia D’Almeida at the sad demise of, Mrs. Edna D’Almeida her sister-in-law and aunt of Sr. Ritsel D’Almeida on 31 March 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Clara Rayalu at the loss of her maternal aunt, Mrs. Mary Susai on 01 April 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Elizabeth Pothan at the loss of her maternal aunt Mrs. Chinnamma Jose on 02 April 2021.
- ✚ To dear Srs. Theresa Augustine and Josmy Jose at the loss of their cousin sister Sr. Smitha (PSA) Prabhudasi Sisters of Ajmer on 02 April 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Liza Philip at the loss of her beloved mother Mrs. Brigit Philip on 03 April 2021.

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

TOWARDS CENTENARY

As we are journeying towards the centenary celebrations, let us deepen our Spirit and Charism by reflecting this month on the role of the animator according to our Constitutions Art.52.

Animator in the FMA Community

Art- 52. In the community the Superior (animator) is a sister among her sisters, with the specific responsibility for animating and guiding.

In the book of Genesis there is the story of Abraham, being called by God: ‘Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”’ (Genesis 12:1-3) For Abraham himself there is the promise that God will bless him and that he himself will be a blessing. **A leader is one who receives blessing in order to be a blessing and to bless others.**

The elements required for a community animator is to be **wise and creative** today.

First, animators should aim to be wise interpreters of scripture, charism and tradition, understanding how to draw on the treasures of the past. Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew says: ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ (Matthew 13:52)

Second, they should also be constantly engaged in being present with God in prayer and with what is new in our changing world. The past is not to be simply repeated, and God is drawing people towards a future that is very different from the present. So every day there are **fresh discernments, judgements and decisions** to be made about what in the contemporary world is to be rejected, what is to be welcomed, and what is to be criticized and transformed.

Third, these discernments, judgments and decisions of an animator’s capacities, require creative and intelligent thinking, grounded in appreciation and understanding.

Fourth, the animator has to communicate effectively and listen attentively.

Let us aim to:

- Love God and each other, and have compassion for all God's creation
- Go deeper into your own faith, into each other's, and into commitment to the common good.
- Seek wisdom through scripture, charism and Constitutions, through reading of inspiring spiritual books.
- Face our fears. Our enemies most often win, not by defeating us, but by dominating our lives with fears. Fear can lead people into horrific attitudes and actions, and above all is hostile to compassion and love. We will often be tempted to act more from fear than from compassion, and learning to resist that temptation will transform our leadership.
- Trust in the blessings of God, a confidence that God will have the last word. **Note** in the Abraham's story where God says: 'The one who curses you I will curse' (Genesis 12:3), not 'The one who curses you, you are to curse in return.'
- One of the dangers that can overpower an animator is that she thinks she knows too much and therefore can have unquestioning certainty. Remember, an animator is one who receives blessing in order to be a blessing to others. To receive the blessing of God one needs to bend one's head.

The personal encounter with her sisters fosters genuine, sisterly relationships within the community (Art.52)

Conditions that favour the experience of the personal encounter

- A climate of faith
- A climate of charity
- A climate of mutual trust
- A climate of great honesty
- A climate of secrecy
- A climate of prudence
- A climate of listening

For us FMAs, the personal encounter is a precious charismatic experience. Therefore, openness, confidence, discretion, honesty and trust, above all humility, simplicity and a spirit of faith and charity are required of the individual sisters. Each FMA is a protagonist and personally responsible for the personal encounter with the animator.

Prudence in the encounter requires a disciplined and vigilant intelligence, which does not allow oneself to be carried away by prejudices.

In her presentation of the document *Personal encounter*, Mother general reminds us that the personal encounter with the animator as a journey of growth in our vocational fidelity. The Lord is present in every encounter with His light and His grace to guide each of us on the path of Salesian holiness.

The animator in return is asked to be a "sister among the sisters" not to assume authoritarian attitudes. The encounter should be an experience of mutual search for the spiritual good of the other, the moment in which the positive is detected, and not the time when reproaches are made.

Dear Animators and sisters let us take to heart the recommendations of our founders and be faithful to our charism that we may not wander away from the original spirit of Mornese and Valdocco in our community life and mission. Let our preparation for the 150th anniversary of the Institute & towards FMA India Centenary enable us to look into our personal lives and make needed changes so as to become passionate communities in loving God & humanity.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Universal Church will celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. As we celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday, intensely reflect upon the abundance of this gift that God wishes to pour forth upon us. We are not to keep the gift of Faith locked in our hearts, but to share it with our children, our families and our neighbours, always remembering the words of Pope St. John XXIII: “Every believer in this world must become a spark of Christ’s light.” “We all have scars from our own Good Fridays that remain long after our own experiences of resurrection. Our ‘nail marks’ remind us that all pain and grief, all ridicule and suffering, are transformed into healing and peace in the love of God that we experience from others and that we extend to them. The “nail marks” of Jesus are all around us in the lives of those walking their own calvarys. Jesus calls us to be willing to place ourselves in the pain and struggle of others and bring the joy and peace of Easter into hearts, entombed in winter cold and darkness.” (Fr. Antony Kadavil)

Affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial

Wish you a very Happy feast of Divine Mercy

