



**Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice**

*Salesiane di Don Bosco*

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



**PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR**  
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*My dearest Sisters, affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!*

**Mary teaches her children to hope in life's darkest moments (Pope Francis)**

We have entered in to this beautiful month of our Blessed Mother Mary Help of Christians, A month dear to every Salesian vocation. For our constitution Article 4 says, **Mary most Holy inspired our Institute and continues to be its mother and teacher, we are, therefore 'a religious Family that belongs entirely to Mary'**.

Mary, like many mothers throughout the world, is an example of strength and courage in accepting new life and in sharing the sufferings of her children. Although she had no idea of what awaited her when she accepted to bear God's son, "Mary in that instant appears to us like one of the many mothers in our world, courageous to the extreme," said the Pontiff.

Her motherly love and courage is seen again at the foot of the cross, he said, where "she teaches us the virtue of waiting even when everything appears meaningless."

"We are not orphans, we have a mother in heaven," he said. "In difficult moments, in the time of pandemic, death, vulnerability and insecurity may Mary, the mother that Jesus has given to us all, always guide our steps and protect us from all harm."

The Gospels portray Mary mostly as a "woman of silence," but one who "meditated on every word and every event in her heart," the pope said. "She is not a woman who is depressed in front of the uncertainties of life, especially when nothing seems to be going right. Instead, she is a woman who listens."

Continuing his series of talks on Christian hope, Pope Francis reflected on Mary as "the mother of hope." "Don't forget: There is always a great relationship between hope and listening. And Mary is a woman who listens, who welcomes existence as it comes to us with its happy days as well as its tragedies, which we never want to encounter," he said. Mary's silence in the Gospel, the pope continued, is particularly evident in Jesus' final moments where her presence during Christ's passion is "eclipsed" until "she reappears at a crucial moment: when a good number of friends vanished because of fear."

"Mothers do not betray, and in that instance, at the foot of the cross, none of us can say which one was the crueller passion: that of the innocent man who dies on the scaffold of the cross or the agony of a mother who accompanies her son in his final moments of life," he said. Mary, he added, was "there" not just out of

faithfulness to God's divine plan but also because "of her instinct as a mother who just suffers" every time her child does.

We are indeed living in a very difficult and doubtful period. Our life is blurred and full of anxiety, insecure and terrifying. We have come to a situation where we can no more depend on human power. God is the only one who can have control over our life. What we need is to strengthen the virtues of faith and hope and Our Blessed Mother Mary, the Help of Christians, the Mother of Hope and Mercy can assist us in this attempt, because she lived it in her life.

Our Institute is Don Bosco's living monument of gratitude, designed and built as a lasting tribute to Our blessed lady. Each of us is a stone in the living monument which by all means gives beauty and shape to this memorial tribute. God has designed this time of pain, and uncertainty to experience a little more deep the protection of heaven. We are never sure of tomorrow. As we begin preparing ourselves for the greatest feast let us consciously imitate our Mother and find strength in the fidelity of God like her.

### **FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

Historically we know that it was Pius VII who instituted the Feast of Mary Help of Christians on May 24, in 1815, recalling the victory at Lepanto and commemorating the day of his own release, the year prior, from imprisonment at the hands of Napoleon. Don Bosco championed the devotion to Mary Help of Christians. Let us continue to have recourse to this devotion to Mary Help of Christians in our disturbed and gloomy times especially during this time of strong second wave of Corona Virus. Let us extend our prayers for the whole world praying fervently the novena to Mary Help of Christians and celebrating the feast in a worthy manner.



### **THE FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Pentecost event is indeed one of the most significant mysteries of our Catholic faith. It is the definitive establishing of the Church; it is the birthday of the Church; it is the beginning of the mission of preaching and evangelization for the Church. It established the community of Jesus' disciples as the sacrament of salvation, the amazing continuation of the presence, teaching, healing, power and grace of Jesus among us until the end of time. With the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer is made present among in a more powerful and extensive manner that was



possible during his mortal life. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the risen Jesus. Such, is the meaning and importance of the Pentecostal event some twenty centuries ago. What, then, is the meaning of Pentecost for us today? The great reality of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Spirit, occurs again in a sense every time a person is baptized and confirmed in the community of the Church. Each of us has been given the Advocate, the Spirit of truth and love to dwell in our minds and hearts and enable us to witness to Jesus and to participate in great mission of the Church: to bring others to Christ and his community. Each of us has been given the gifts of the Spirit, love, wisdom, and courage to empower us to live and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. The great gift and mystery of Pentecost was in a sense not a once-for-all event but a continuous pouring out of the Spirit to transform us and our community. Let us turn to the Holy Spirit again and again in fervent prayer, inviting him to come into our minds and hearts and transform our lives ever more fully.

**"Come Holy Spirit Make our ears to hear, Make our eyes to see, Make our mouths to speak, Make our hearts to seek Make our hands to reach out And touch the world with your love. AMEN."**

Let us pray to the Holy Spirit everyday and make the days of Novena fruitful thus we may have a wonderful reception of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. 9 days of novena in preparation for the feast of Pentecost and Mary Help of Christians will be sent. Let us take keen interest and spent more time with our blessed Mother invoking the Holy Spirit to have a meaningful celebration of the great feasts of Pentecost and Mary Help of Christians.

## **FEAST OF OUR MOTHER & CO-FOUNDRESS ST.MARY DOMENICA MAZZARELLO**



### **THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EPIDEMIC IN MARY DOMENICA MAZZARELLO**

For the vast majority of us, the reality of an epidemic is a new condition, all the more so since it manifests itself in the form of a pandemic, but Mary Domenica Mazzarello knew the consequences of the epidemics at **an early age**. Her parents had welcomed as their daughter another Mary Domenica, a cousin, from whom cholera had taken away her parents in 1835. The inhabitants of her hamlet were building the church of Saints Stephen and Lorenzo and Mary Help of Christians in thanksgiving for the protection received on that same occasion. But then she **experienced an epidemic in**

**her own person.** It was the time of total oblation in **charity and obedience**: 'Fr. Pestarino, if you want, I will go. But I am sure I will get sick.' But, at the same time, without being able to even imagine it, this was a **decisive choice** for her life and ... for us, for the Institute that would be born after several years. What could seem to be a failure, that brought with it the collapse of plans and hopes, revealed itself instead, over time, to be the key to access the **providential and unthinkable design of God.**

## THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING...

What might have seemed the end of everything was instead, the beginning of everything. God not only wanted her as a peasant, engaged in her parish, available to be a catechist also to mothers, but an **apostle of the female youth world**, through Christian education. It was not entirely clear to her immediately, far from it. **From the prayer** 'Lord, if in your goodness you want to grant me a few more years of life, let me spend them ignored by all, and, except by You, forgotten by all', to the vision of Borgo Alto, to the **decision to learn how to be a seamstress** to gather and educate the girls of the town in a Christian way. Thus a whole **path of docility to the Spirit** is outlined, which only shows her one step at a time what God wants from her, which stimulates her ability to look around, to see needs, and to plan answers ... but always with **the gaze of her heart on God alone**.

## I ENTRUST THEM TO YOU..., STILL TODAY

This is a great **suggestion** for us at this time, in which all our homes do not resonate, as usual, with youthful voices, in which we are inventing new ways of reaching, animating, educating children and adolescents, of involving the young people in this mission.

What are the Lord and Mary Help of Christians asking of us? What face should our mission take now and when will we meet again physically? What do they want to change in our life and in our support of life that grows?

We know only one thing with certainty: that Our Lady's appeal, '**I entrust them to you**', continues to resonate in our hearts as individuals and as a community, and as an educating community, as an Institute. Being '**communities that generate life**' means knowing how to arouse life where there seems to be only death; hope where the temptation is to refuse even the possibility of dreaming of a better future; trust where mistrust risks taking over.

To awaken the **vocational freshness** of the origins is to help open our hearts and ears to the **appeals** that reach us from all sides and ask us to know how to 'invent the tools' to respond to them, to give a decisive turn to the choices to put ourselves **at the service** of those in need.



01	ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER
03	ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES
06	ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
13	ST. MARIA DOMINICA MAZZARELLO & OUR LADY OF FATIMA
14	ST. MATHIAS
16	ASCENTION
23	PENTECOST
24	MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
30	HOLY TRINITY
31	VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



## GENERAL CHAPTER XXIV - NEW CONVOCATION

On 30<sup>th</sup> April our beloved Mother General has communicated to the entire Institute through the Circular N. 1008 about the new Convocation of General Chapter XXIV. It will begin in Rome in the Generalate with the official opening on **17 September 2021** and is expected to close on 24 October 2021. Mother once again confirms the same theme.

**“Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).**

### **Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity**

Circular N.1008, the official convocation of General Chapter XXIV is sent to you. Let us continue to pray earnestly for the fruitfulness of the Chapter in our personal life and that of our communities.

## TO NEW PROVINCIAL OF INB

As the Installation of the new provincial of Mumbai province will be held at 10.30 am on 27 May 2021 at Mazzarello Youth Centre, Wadala, We wish Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, the Provincial Elect an abundance of God's blessings and accompaniment of Mother Mary in her new mission. Congratulations and best wishes! I would like to express my sincere thanks to Sr. Thomas Rita Dora, the outgoing provincial of INB, for her simplicity, hospitality, collaboration and sisterly love and support. God bless you and your future mission.

## JOYFUL NEWS

Holy Father Pope Francis appointed Prof. Pina Del Core FMA, Consultor of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life (VC) and Societies of Apostolic Life. It was announced on 10 April 2021.

Pina Del Core, former Principal for nine years of the Pontifical Faculty of Education Science “Auxilium” in Rome, in addition to teaching positions in the field of the psychological sciences, was Director of the *Institute of Psychological Research* in the educational field and coordinator of the Diploma Course for Formators in the field of consecrated life promoted by the Faculty.

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO SR. GENY JOSEPH PUTHERIKKAL

I am glad to announce that Sr. Geny Joseph Putherikkal has successfully defended her Doctoral Dissertation in Education, at Media Village Institute of the diocese, Changanassery Kottayam, on 30 March 2021 on the theme, *Emotional Maturity, Stress Tolerance and Professional commitment of High School Teachers – A Correlational Study*. She did her study in Bharathiar University Coimbatore, Under the supervision of Dr. Lissy Koshi, Assistant Professor, Mount Carmel College of Teacher Education, Kottayam. **Hearty Congratulations** to you dear Sr. Geny! We are proud of your intellectual performance!

## VOICE OF GRATITUDE

- My heartfelt thanks to dear Sr. Monica Thomas and the provincial house community for your spirit of hospitality and arrangements made for creating favourable ambient for retreat for the first batch of retreatants in Karnataka region.

- A special word of Thanks to Sr. Mercy Abraham and Angamaly community for making all the arrangements for the second retreat for the sisters of Kerala Region. May God bless and recompense for all that you have done.
- Our sincere thanks to dear Fr. Alex Kalathikattil who preached the first retreat at Provincial House, and Fr. Varkey Menacherry SJ for the second retreat for our sisters at Angamaly. I consider that it was a great occasion to spent time with Jesus all through the retreat days and to renew the spiritual life.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

Sr. Lourde Panneer Selvi is attending a course at Kristu Jyoti College from 19 April – 29 May 2021 on the topic “Formation of the formation guides”.

## JUNIORATE AT AT GUWAHATI

Sr. Louramma Mereeta, Sr. Maria Vincet Padmini, Sr. Nandru Anusha and Sr. Velupula Swaroopa Rani will be joining ING Province for the Intensive Juniorate. We wish them a very fruitful and enriching formative experience.

## ANNUAL RETREATS

The second Annual Retreat for the **Karnataka region will be from 16– 23 May** at Sacred Heart Convent. There will be also an **online retreat** for all those who were not able to attend any of the other retreats. Simultaneously **the Novices too will be making the retreat** at SHTC Bangalore. Let us keep them all in our prayers.

### • RENEWALS

As the lockdown is continuing, interstate travel may be difficult and so the **renewal of the Temporary Professed sisters** will be done in their own communities on May 24<sup>th</sup> during the Mass. It will be preceded by two days recollection animated by Sr. Alice Chacko online. I exhort the animators to facilitate this celebration and make it meaningful for them. I will be sending the authorization letter for receiving the vows along with this circular and animator can appoint two witnesses. Kindly scan and send the document with the signatures of the sister, animator and the witnesses. Kindly remember to hand over the original documents to the province secretary at the earliest chance.

### • FIRST PROFESSION

Our 3 second year novices Srs. Benny Saniga, Kasper Litveena, Mendem Mariya Susmitha will make their First Profession on 24<sup>th</sup> May in the Provincial house Chapel at 7a.m. We express our gratitude to God Almighty and Mary Help of Christians for them and welcome them affectionately into our religious family. We congratulate them and wish them a blissful religious life and loving fidelity to Christ. Heartfelt thanks to Sr. Molly Joseph and the community for preparing them for this great day.

### • PERPETUAL PROFESSION

We raise our hearts in thanksgiving to God for the gift of three of our Junior Sisters, Sr. Amarlapudi Kalpana, Sr. Anthony Mary Yash Sr. Korabandi Sushma, who will be making their Perpetual Profession

in the Provincial House Chapel on 24<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30a.m. While we congratulate them let us send ahead our fervent prayers for a lifelong dedication to the Lord among the young people. Kindly accompany them with your prayers as they are doing their second novitiate here in the provincial house. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Monica Thomas, Sr. Ancy Mathew and all the sisters of the Provincial House for accompanying them while they were doing their Intensive Juniorate in preparing themselves for their final commitment and to take this important step in their religious life.

## **APOSTOLIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021-22**

As we have completed another academic year I take this opportunity to thank all of you dear Sisters for your availability, generosity and collaboration in faithfully fulfilling your duties towards the realization of the common mission of the Province. Thanks to each one of you, who have accepted your new apostolic assignment with much faith, in a spirit of obedience. May your, willingness and sacrifice bring joy to you and life to all whom you meet in your future mission. The movement of the sisters to the new communities will depend on the situation of covid19. We will abide by all the rules and norms of the State and Central government. If the circumstances are favourable sisters can be in the new communities by 30<sup>th</sup> May.

## **FOLLOWING OF VOCATIONABLE GIRLS**

Though it is impossible to conduct vocation Camps physically due to the difficult situation in which we are living, I request the sisters in charge of vocation in the communities to conduct a virtual camp regional level for the girls who had been in touch with you so that you can be connected to them and to give them a taste for religious life by presenting to them God's call from the scriptures and the response of saints to the call received specially that of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. Thus we may be able to discern their vocation and promote them to the formation house.

## **EARNEST PRAYER & SERVICE**

Covid19 is no more somewhere far away, it is in our neighbourhood, in our campuses and communities... Our sisters, fathers, dear ones, teachers, parents, parishners, benefactors, well wishers are touched by this fatal virus. It is enough the daily news that we hear to make us be depressed. Yet we know God has a plan and he will not let us down. This is a time to grow in faith, hope and prayer.

"In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May will be dedicated to a '**marathon**' of **prayer**, to ask for the end of the pandemic, which has afflicted the world for more than a year now, and to ask for the resumption of social and work activities". Let us join our Holy Father and offer our generous prayers.

I am happy to inform you that six of our young sisters, Sr. Mary Rani, Sr. Venila Dominic, Sr. Jyothi Gunti, Sr. Jacintha Kopuri, Sr. Jyothsna Mattupalli, and Sr. Madugula Shantha Kumari has volunteered to be **Covid Warriors** (an initiative promoted by the Archdiocese of Bangalore) and are assisting in the city hospitals. They are placed in St. Martha's and St. Philomena's. I congratulate them for their courage, dedication and enthusiasm to work for the suffering humanity. Let us remember them in our prayers.

### **SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS**

- ✙ To Fr. Davis Maniparamben and the Confreres of the Province of INN at the demise of Fr. V. J. Sebastian, Vadakethannikal, (74) on 14 April 2021
- ✙ To dear Sr. Nirmal Lazar and all the sisters of the province of INM at the passing away of Sr. Sindhuraj Regina (73) on 16 April 2021
- ✙ To dear Sr. Shanthakumari Bandanadam at the sudden loss of her beloved mother Mrs. Anthonamma (60) on 21 April 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Nirmala Joseph at the passing away of her first cousin Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj SJ (42) on 22 April 2021.
- ✙ To Fr. Jose Koyickal and the Confreres of the Province of INK at the demise of Fr. Thomas Panakezham, (PC), (92) on 24 April 2021.
- ✙ To dear Srs. Miriam and Rani Jacob at the sudden death of their beloved brother Fr. Joseph Kalathipullattu (71) on 25 April 2021.
- ✙ To dear Sr. Margaret Amalanathan and the sisters of the province of INT at the passing away of Sr. Marie Bastian (91) 1May 2021.
- ✙ To Fr. Jacob Iruppakaattu and the Confreres of the Province of INC at the demise of Fr. Agapit Ming on 15 April and Fr. Sanju Mukul Kachhap (42) on 29 April 2021 and Most Rev. Lucas Sirkar SDB (84), Archbishop Emeritus of Archdiocese of Kolkata on 18 April 2021.
- ✙ To Fr. Jauarius S. Sangama and the Confreres of the Province of ING at the sudden death of Fr. Paulus Guria (34) on 2 May 2021.

### **ST. JOSEPH A MAN OF ACTION**

While the Gospels do not record any words Saint Joseph might have spoken, the eloquent silence nonetheless allows us a glimpse into his character. Righteous, Obedient, Pure, Humble, Silent (contemplative) Husband, Protector and guardian of the Saviour and the Blessed Virgin. Saint Joseph experienced the same difficulties in life we all do, yet he lived an exemplary life. Saint Joseph was a man possessed of unwavering faith and utmost trust in God's providence. God was first and foremost, above all, in Saint Joseph's life. In short, he is an upright man of faith and outstanding virtues. As such, he serves as a wonderful role model for us today.

For Saint Joseph, doing God's will was paramount. Saint Joseph never questioned what God told him and carried out God's promptings without hesitation or delay – his response was immediate and he would carry out the task at hand the way God wanted it done. After the angel appeared to him in a dream, assuring him

that Mary's child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, Joseph took Mary into his home as his wife. After the visit of the magi, upon receiving the angel's warning, Joseph wasted no time, immediately getting up and taking his little family and fleeing to Egypt in the middle of the night to escape King Herod's murderous wrath. Later, after Herod's death, the angel again instructed Joseph that it was time to return to the land of Israel, and while he probably intended to return to Bethlehem in Judea, chose rather to go to Nazareth in Galilee upon being warned by the angel that Herod's son ruled Judea in his place. When God told Joseph to get up and go, Joseph unhesitatingly got up and went.

**Saint Joseph was a man of action, obeying God's will for him in the ordinary duties of daily life.** He faithfully and tenderly loved, protected and provided for the Child Jesus and the Virgin Mary. He kept the Sabbath and went to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover. **He did the ordinary things of everyday, ordinary life with love.**

By following Saint Joseph's example, let us faithfully do the ordinary, little things that God wants us to do.

***Affectionately,***

*Sr. Celine Jacob*

*Sr. Celine Jacob*  
*Provincial*



**Wishing you a very Happy Feast of  
St. Dominic Savio, St. Mary  
Domenica Mazzarello, Pentecost &  
Mary Help of Christians!**