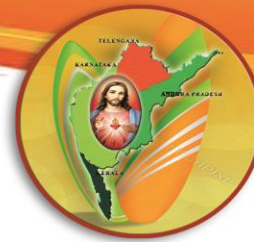




Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice

Salesiane di Don Bosco

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



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR
SACRED HEART CONVENT, BANGALORE 49

XXIX / 3

September 2021

My dearest Sisters, affectionate Greetings from Rome!

It is with great joy and gratitude to God I am writing this circular letter. FMA India had a very safe and happy reaching to Rome on 28th evening. It was an experience of God's direct intervention. Kindly join us to thank God for this singular grace that He has granted us. We owe our debt of gratitude to La Madre and the General council and in particular Sr.Vilma Tallone for their untiring efforts in bringing us here. May God bless each one of them with abundance of graces and blessings. Now we are put up in Hotel Casa Tra Noi for the quarantine. We are well taken care here. We have enough time to take rest, relax and pray. The atmosphere is very conducive. After the Covid Test on the 7th Sept. On the Birthday our Blessed Mother we will be going to Casa Generalizia.

A general chapter is a significant moment in the life of the Institute as we discern the ways we are asked to respond to God's calls at this moment in our history. A chapter is a journey in faith. In the preparation, during the Chapter itself, and in living of its orientations, it is a paschal process, a renewing event for the Institute. It is a time to celebrate what God has been doing among us, and a time to embrace the calls of the present and the future

.As we had been praying in the past Let us intensify our prayers for GCXXIV that we may reflect on the movement of the Spirit in the life that is unfolding among us, around us and beyond us... and discern the ways God is calling us now to live our mission for the emerging future." Today more than ever we feel the need for our communities to return to the sources of the Charism to recreate the educational originality of the Spirit of Valdocco and Mornese.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The birthdates of great men and women are remembered for posterity. Many nations celebrate their birthday on the date they gained their independence. The Church celebrates its birthday, on the Feast of Pentecost. However, the Church typically commemorates its saints on their date of death, ordination, or other significant milestone. Only Christ Himself, Saint John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary have feasts commemorating their births, because only they were holy from the start. They were sanctified by God in the womb, not made holy through grace and long trial during their earthly lives.



Nowhere in Scripture is the place and date of birth of the Virgin Mary recorded. Nor are the names of her parents found in Scripture, although tradition tells us they were Joachim and Anne. It is not until the sixth century that there is certain knowledge of a liturgical commemoration of Mary's birth. This is not unusual. Mary lived a largely hidden life, and her theological and historical significance remained somewhat veiled until the Council of Ephesus in 431 formally declared her the Mother of God. Since that definition, every aspect of her life has become the source of a rich spiritual and theological heritage.

The silence of Mary, the hiddenness of so much of her life, is fascinating. It is an invitation to prayer and spiritual reflection. Her silence, and the silence of Scripture on so many events which must have occurred but are not referenced, means that there is, and will always be, more for the Church to reveal about Her greatest truths. It is not just Scripture that is inspired but the Church as well. She pulls from Her storehouse things old and new, polishes them off, and offers them to the faithful in culturally compelling language to deepen the content of faith and the Faithfull's response to it.

But even more than offering old things in new ways, even more than preserving past truths, the Church is a generator of revelation. She is the Living Word in the world of today, the vibrant Magisterium who absorbs the world's questions and challenges in every age and gives them compelling answers. Tradition for the Church, then, is not just a jewel to be guarded. Tradition is forward-looking, dynamic, and active. And this positive tradition continues to celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary because it was she, the last great figure of the B.C. era, whose birth itself gave birth to a new world. No Mary, no Christ. Her birth was the start of the future we all now inhabit.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large. We can see every

human birth as a call for new hope in the world. 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. I am happy that formation and Media Sector of the province will be animating all the communities to prepare worthily for this novena and celebrate the birthday of our Blessed Mother solemnly.



- 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**



PRAYER FOR AFGANISTAN

We heard the appeal of Pope Francis after the Angelus Prayer on Sunday, 29 August 2021 urging the Christians to intensify their prayer, penance, and fasting for the situation in Afghanistan, as he entrusted the souls of those who died to God's mercy. The Pope exhorted: "As Christians, this situation commits us. That is why I appeal to everyone to intensify your prayer and to practise fasting." Pope Francis said that he is following the situation 'with great concern' and that he is participating in the suffering of those mourning for the people who lost their lives in the suicide attacks and those seeking help and protection. Pope Francis concluded his request saying, "I ask everyone to continue to assist the needy and to pray that dialogue and solidarity will lead to the establishment of a peaceful and fraternal coexistence and offer hope for the future of the country." In union with the whole Church, let us continue to pray for this intention of the Holy Father and at the same time let us undertake some sacrifices according to each one's situation.

ANNEXURE TO THE GUIDELINES

An online meeting at PCI level for the Provincials, the formation coordinators and the animators of the communities with temporary professed Sisters was conducted on 09th August 2021. The main aim of this meet was to present the “Annexure: Inculturating the Guidelines for the Formation Period of Temporary Vows to Indian context” which is the fruit of study and reflection of the Guidelines, with the contribution of the PCI Formators and the involvement of the temporary professed Sisters of the provinces. The presence of Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves, General Councillor for Formation, Rome was very encouraging. She appreciated very much the work done by the PCI and virtually released the Annexure and presented the first copy to Sr Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the PCI President. Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the National Formation Coordinator, presented very briefly the journey made as a conference in bringing out the Annexure to the Guidelines. It was followed by the insightful input session by Sr Maria Nieves with the theme: “What does it mean for Formators of today the mandate ‘I entrust them to you’?”. Our Sincere gratitude to Sr Rebozo Maria Nieves for her profound insights; Sincere appreciation to Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, for her untiring efforts in compiling the Annexure with sincere commitment for the formation of the young Sisters; organizing the online meet efficiently with the style of coordination for communion. Soon we will be receiving the annexure in hand, kindly make good use of them for the formation of our young sisters.

SEASON OF CREATION 2021

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this world-wide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. This year, the theme for the season is **A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God.** The oikos is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. The whole creation is still crying out. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution the geography where we recognize God’s creative power has continued to shrink. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the oikos, the beloved community. Our fundamental interconnectedness has been at best forgotten, at worst deliberately denied. This year’s logo for the season of creation is Abraham’s tent, symbolizing “A home for all”. Let us pay heed to the call of our Holy Father and the orientations of the Institute in this regard. I congratulate and thank Sr. Rosy Lopez for taking personal interest to conduct the Webinar on 29th August on this topic for all the communities of the province and chalking out a detailed itinerary for the same. I exhort all of you dear sisters to take it up with a sense of dedication and an attitude of caring for the whole world.

APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE OF SECOND YEAR NOVICES

Our three Second Year Novices will be going for their apostolic experience to the following communities from 04 - 26 September 2021. Joy sharmista Salome Sangma & Phibakordor Kharkongor to Joseph Nagar Hassan, Biji Rajan, Maria Jasmine T. & Auxilia Lakashiang to Champrajpet Bangalore. We wish them a fruitful experience in the mission of the communities which may help them to strengthen their vocation and sense of belonging to the Institute.

WEBINARS & MEETINGS

27 & 28 August - National level Webinar for NCP Children, Teachers and Sisters

29 August - Introducing Laudato Si Action Plan for all the communities

08 September - Girl Child Day – Region wise animation for all the NCP group

10 September – Webinar for VTC staff

11 September – Webinar for all the IGP groups in the 4 centres.

VIRTUAL MORNESE EXPERIENCE FOR NOVICES

In view of the celebration of the 150th year of the foundation of the institute the formation sector has taken the initiative to have an Online meeting for all the novices all over the world to deepen the spirituality of Mother Mazzarello With the theme: Today Mother writes a letter for you! Sr. Jeanette Palasota (USA) and Sr. Sahaya Sangitha Rani will be animating for English speaking novices on 31 August – 01 September 2021. They will be focusing on 3 stages of her life- at Valponasca, Collegio and Nizza Monferrato. I congratulate Sr.Sangitha for her enthusiastic and generous commitment to share her experience and knowledge with the English speaking novices of our Institute.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

To our Principals, staff & sisters! We have once again achieved good results in all our schools, thanks to the unrelenting commitment and dedication of principals, correspondents Sisters and Staff involved in the organization of education. It is approximately two years since we have had regular offline/physical classes due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we have seen and continue to see the effect of the many hard work being made by our HM's to keep the students engaged in learning method, even helping and reaching out to those without mobile phones, internet facility, etc. My sincere Thanks to each one of you for your resourceful instruction and untiring enthusiasm with which you go forward our ministry of education in different parts of the Province. Let us hope and pray that we may have the joy of seeing our campuses and class rooms filled with children and young people soon. May God's blessings and protection to all of you dear Sisters during this new academic year, which has already begun.

To our dear Sr. Josmy Jose, who has been appointed as the staff member in the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences, Auxilium, Rome. It is indeed a moment of joy, pride and happiness for all of us as she is the first Indian FMA to hold this post. In the name of the province I congratulate and thank Sr. Josmy for her dedicated services to our province in the past years. We accompany you dear sister as you take up a new task in the field of higher Education in the Institute. Your trust in God, enthusiasm, courage and determination will accompany you together with our prayerful support!

We are expecting that she will receive her visa without much delay. Buon Viaggio ! dear Sr.Josmy.

To Sr Alessandra Smerilli FMA, who has been appointed as Secretary ad interim of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Delegate for the Vatican Covid-19 Commission by our Holy Father Pope Francis on 26 August 2021. We are indeed very proud of this new assignment conferred on our her and assure her of our prayers for the fruitful outcome of her mission.

To Sr Rosa Pyngrope (INS) who is appointed by our Mother General as the Animator of Casa Ersilia Canta in Rome. She is the first Indian Sister to be appointed community leader of an international community. Let us accompany her with our prayer that the Spirit may lead her in this responsible task of animation.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To Fr. Davis Maniparamben and the confreres of the Province of Delhi at the passing away of Fr George Nadackal on August 02, 2021
- ✚ To dear Sr. Deva Mani Gummadi at the sudden loss of her beloved mother on 18 August 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Rosy Lopez at the sudden loss of her nephew Mr. Andrew Lopez (47) on 26 August 2021.
- ✚ To Fr.K.M.Jose, the Provincial and the Confreres of SDB INM Province at the passing away of Bro.Joseph Das SDB (87) on 25th August 2021
- ✚ To dear Sr. Lizzie Abraham at the loss of her brother in law Mr. Sunny Vazhayil (56) on 28 August 2021.
- ✚ To dear Sr. Anita Joseph at the loss of her paternal Aunty Mrs. Mariam (87) on 30 August 2021

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

CONCLUSION

FEAST OF ARCHANGELS: MICHAEL, RAPHAEL AND GABRIEL

The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church. Michael (Who is like God?) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (Strength of God) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (Medicine of God) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that, the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition."

Angels are pure, created spirits. The name angel means servant or messenger of God. Angels are celestial or heavenly beings, on a higher order than human beings. Angels have no bodies and do not depend on matter for their existence or activity. They are distinct from saints, which men can become. Angels have intellect and will, and are immortal.

Let us pray to the archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Michael is our protector; we ask him to come to our aid, fight for all our loved ones, and protect us from all evil and danger. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News; we ask him to help us clearly hear God's voice and to teach us the truth. Saint Raphael is the healing angel; we ask him to heal our world from covid19, and save us from this pandemic and all its negative consequences.

I take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very Happy Birthday of Our Blessed Mother! Special prayer remembrance of all those who bear the holy name of Mary.

HAPPY FEAST



Affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

*Sr. Celine Jacob
Provincial*