



**XXXI/ 03**

**01 August 2023**

## **My dearest Sisters, Prayerful and affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!**

I am back in the Province with many good wishes and loving greetings from our Mother General, the General Councillors and in particular Sr. Celine Jacob. I had a relaxed and fruitful time in Rome and Castelgandolfo. I thank each one of you for your loving and prayerful accompaniment during my journey and stay at the Centre.

I cannot proceed in writing this Circular without remembering our dear Sr. Lizy K. Varkey, whom the Lord of Life came to pluck during my absence. He prepared her through suffering, and finally, on July 7th, Sr. Lizy took her flight serenely and peacefully to her eternal aboard. On the 5th morning, she spoke to me on the phone and thanked me, assuring me of her prayers and offerings for the needs of the Province. As I followed her funeral rites online, I did thank God for Sr. Shiji Kurian and the Community of Puthuppally for lovingly accompanying Sr. Lizy during the time of her intense suffering. Sr. Lily Arangassery and Sr. Alice Philip were by her side with all the possible nursing care. I thank Sr. Sheela Jacob and the Community of Kottiyam for arranging everything for the last rites for dear Sr. Lizy. Special thanks to Sr. Annie John and Sr. Sini Varghese for being there.

We begin another important month. August is not just the eighth month of the year; it also describes something esteemed or regal. The month of August was named for Augustus Caesar, who was an important and regal person. For us Indians, it's significant because it brings to our minds the event most important to our Nation: Independence Day, and for us Catholics, also the feast of the Assumption of our Mother Mary.

## **151 Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute**

August 5, the Feast of Our Lady of Snow, a significant moment in the annals of the Institute, continues till today to sing together with joy the wonders of Mary in the life of our institute and in the life of each one of us. We recall to our minds our first sisters of Mornese, together with our Saintly Co-Foundress Mary Mazzarello, who pronounced their "Yes" forever on the day that marked the foundation. We also marvel at our Six FMA Pioneers who came to India in 1922, sixteen years after the Salesian charism was brought to our beloved motherland, ( by the Salesians) India. The FMA augmented in number, the mission grew, and the province too increased to seven. All because of Mother Mary's intervention!

In 1854, Italy experienced a devastating cholera epidemic with a death rate of up to 60%. St. Don Bosco advised his pupils to avoid sin, pray, and wear a blessed Marian medal. On August 5, Don Bosco spoke about Our Lady of the Snows' intercession in combating the disease and her advocacy as the Mother of Mercy. He advised them to make a good confession and receive Holy Communion and to remain in a state of grace to avoid being stricken by the disease. Don Bosco and his priests took care for the local victims, involving over 40 of his boys in nursing and caring for the sick and dying. Despite the challenges, the boys persevered and eventually recovered.

The best antidote to the cessation of violence in Manipur is to remain in a state of grace, pray with fervour, and have genuine devotion to the Blessed Virgin. May we also practise Don Bosco's words and intensify our prayers for the state of Manipur.

## MARY'S ASSUMPTION & INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

The Assumption completes God's work in Mary since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over. The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.



As we celebrate Independence Day, we gratefully remember our patriotic leaders and the people. This day questions us, as all of us are aware of the situation through which India is passing now.

We go back to the midnight of August 14, 1947: in his historic speech, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, said: "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awaken to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new". His ambition has been to wipe away every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but so long as there are tears and suffering, our work will not be over. And so we have to labour and work to give reality to our dreams.

On that August 15th, Mahatma Gandhi did not celebrate but observed a 24-hour fast, offered prayers, and spun Khadi yarn. He wrote: "My way of celebrating great events, such as today's, is to thank God for them and, therefore, to pray." He knew that that day contained seeds of conflict between India and Pakistan. Riots between Hindus and Muslims were in the air in Calcutta, Lahore and several other places. He travelled to the trouble-torn places and met the people. Within a few days, peace returned. Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's efforts in Kolkata, Lord Mountbatten wrote, "In Punjab, we have 55,000 soldiers and large-scale rioting on our hands. In Bengal, our forces consist of ONE MAN, and there is no rioting." ... Power of Prayer and Fasting ! of a single man, Mahatma Gandhi! ....

If just one man's prayer and sacrifices could bring about such drastic changes in such a short time, what cannot our 34 communities achieve with regard to the problems the Church in India is facing now? Let us not give up hope; prayer and sacrifices will bear fruit and India will become a place,

*Where the mind is without fear  
and the head is held high,  
where knowledge is free.  
Where the world has not been broken up  
Into fragments by narrow domestic walls.  
Where words come out from the depth of truth,  
where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection.  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.  
Where the mind is led forward by thee  
into ever widening thought and action.  
In to that haven of freedom, my father,  
Let my country awake.*

## BL. MARIA TRONCATTI



***“A GLANCE AT THE CRUCIFIX GIVES ME THE STRENGTH AND THE COURAGE TO WORK.”***

This was the secret of the heroic missionary life of Blessed Maria Troncatti.

Born in Cortegno Golgi, Italy, Sr. Maria Troncatti was a hardworking and religious woman who attended catechism in her parish. She attended the Institute of the Salesian Sisters and made her first profession in 1908. During World War I, she took a course in health care and worked as a Red Cross nurse. She then went to Ecuador in 1922 to work with the Shuar people, evangelizing them against dangers like forest beasts and fast-flowing rivers. Sr. Maria's work, including nursing, surgery, orthopedics, dentists, and anesthetists, was a testament to her faith, patience, and fraternal love. Her work led to the formation of hundreds of new Christian families, allowing young couples to form their own Christian families. Sr. Maria died in a tragic air crash at Sucúa on August 25, 1969. Her remains lie at Macas, in the Province of Morona (Ecuador). The Servant of God, Sister Maria Troncatti, was raised to the glory of the Blessed in Macas (Ecuador) on November 24, 2012. As we keep her memory let us imitate her testimony of faith and ardent love for God and our neighbour in our daily living.

**Let's celebrate!**

02	<b>BL. AUGUSTUS CZARTORYSKI SDB</b>
04	<b>ST. JOHN M. VIANNEY</b>
05	<b>151<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF FOUNDATION DAY &amp; OUR LADY OF SNOWS</b>
06	<b>TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>
15	<b>MARY'S ASSUMPTION &amp; INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA</b>
16	<b>BIRTHDAY OF JOHNNY BOSCO</b>
22	<b>QUEENSHIP OF MARY</b>
24	<b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW</b>
25	<b>BL. MARIA TRONCATI</b>
26	<b>BI. ZEPHYRINO NAMUNCURA</b>
29	<b>BEHEADING OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>



### **ANIMATION FOR THE GOLDEN JUBILARIANS**

Our Golden Jubilarians are participating in a week-long programme of prayer and reflection from July 28 to August 2, enjoying the silence and quiet of Vidyavanam Ashram at Boodhana Halli, near Bannerghatta, Bangalore. We wish them a fruitful time as they prepare to renew their offering of self-gift to the Lord, made for the first time in 1973. August 5, 2023, brings the shimmering glow of the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Marie Chollanal and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our dear Sisters Mary

Antony, Rosy Lopez, Elizabeth Kuruvila, Lilly Chinnappan, Pauline D`Silva, Rosilin Pandaraparambil and Teresa Thomas.

Let us praise and thank the Lord for their unswerving fidelity and unstinted generosity in His service, in the service of the poor children and women, and in their patient and self-sacrificing care for the sick and the suffering. We congratulate these precious jewels of our Province with a deep sense of gratitude and ardent prayer for their health, happiness and holiness. Ad multos Annos!

## **RENEWAL OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSON**

On August 4, Sr. Joyly Grace Mawthoh and Sr. Ribha Suja of INS will renew their Vows at Sacred Heart Convent Bangalore. We wish them fervent preparation as they renew their self-gift to the Father through the renewal of the Vows.

## **SILVER YEARS!**

This year marks 25 years since the start of our Novitiate House. On August 16, the birthday of Don Bosco, we will have a Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist celebrated in the Novitiate Chapel. Like the tiny mustard seed, we want our small House to become the home for many Novices who will let the Salesian charism grow and mature, bearing fruit for the Kingdom. This demands from us a life of creative fidelity and individual responsibility for a renewed Vocational animation. Each one is responsible for the Vocations in the province, not a selected few.

## **HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!**

To our beloved Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, who has been nominated as the Cardinal of the Catholic Church by Pope Francis. Congratulations also to the Salesians of Don Bosco, one of whom was found worthy to be raised to this dignity in the Church. While we rejoice at this honour and trust placed in the Salesian Family, let us pray for Fr. Angel so that he may receive an additional outpouring of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to carry out his new mission.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

To our Sisters Students who have passed with good grades and marks in the University and Board examinations. May the Glory of God shine in all that we do!

## **INTENSIVE JUNIORATE**

Four of our temporary professed Sisters, Sr. Baby Rani Chiyadri, Sr. Dixy Benny, Litveena Kasper and Sr. Saniga Benny, will be leaving on August 8 for Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati, for their Intensive Juniorate. They will commence their intensive Juniorate on August 13. We wish them a safe journey and a fruitful and enriching formative experience.

## **WELCOME**

We welcome the three Postulants of INB; Avita Pilla, Helen Francis and Shweta DSouza, who have joined our three Postulants at Karunapuram. Sr. Shiny and the Community welcomed them on July 28. We wish them an enriching experience on their formative journey. We also wish the three Aspirants and five CPCs who frequent JMJ College at Karunapuram and the 15 Candidates in Bannerghatta a wonderful experience!

## PRAYERFUL ACCOMPANIMENT

We assure our prayerful support to Mother Chiara Cazzuola and all the Visiting Councillors, as they have informed us about their schedule and requested our prayerful accompaniment in their missions.

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To Sr. Asha Latha at the demise of her grandmother, Mrs. Celine Michael (75), on July 18, 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Jessy Ambiyil, at the sudden loss of her paternal aunt, Mrs. Susa Johnny (60), on July 19, 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Rosily Theckanath at the demise of her dear father, Mr. Esthappanose (94), on July 20, 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Udaya Yammala at the sudden passing away of her aunt and cousin on July 24, 2023.

## WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR SICK SISTERS AND DEAR ONES

- Sr. Nirmala Joseph, who is on medication and waiting for the complete healing.
- The brother of Sr. Crocetta Thomas, Mr. William Charles, who underwent open heart surgery and is in convalescence.

## CONCLUSION

Let us join the entire Church and the young people of the world in celebrating the -

### **37TH WORLD DAY OF YOUTH**

from August 1 to 6 in Lisbon, Portugal, with the theme "**Mary arose and went with haste**" (Lk 1, 39). We accompany Sr. Nirmala Mummadi, who will be one of the participants from India. A meeting of the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) will precede the celebrations of WYD.

It is an event in which Mary of Nazareth invites everyone, especially young people, to walk the path of proximity and encounter in the context of humanity, tested by pandemic trauma and torn apart by the drama of war.

Let it be an opportunity for the participants and for all to welcome the beauty of cultures, to celebrate unity in diversity, to listen together to the voice of the Lord who invites everyone to get up, to let themselves be involved in his dream of life, hope, and peace, of fraternity without frontiers in favour of the world's neediest.

**Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.**

**Affectionately,**



**Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil**  
Provincial