



XXXI/ 04

01 September 2023

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

We meet once again, this time, in the very special month of September. Why very special? because a September such as this one will occur only after another 100 years. You know that this month our northern FMA Provinces of Shillong, Guwahati and Kolkata will be celebrating the Grand Finale of the three year-long Centenary Celebrations of the foundation of our Institute.

Month of September has other charms too. It brings the Birthday of our Immaculate Mother Mary on 8th, the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary on 12th and of the sorrows of Mary on 15th.

It also offers us the nationwide celebration of the Teachers' Day. The purpose of our life is to celebrate God's love and blessings even when we pass through the rough ground. Let us enter into this beautiful month with joy and gratitude in the company of Mary who leads and guides us.

SEASON OF CREATION



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

The season of creation begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer, for the care of creation, and ends on 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology loved by many Christian denominations. In a world facing escalating environmental challenges such as climate change, habitat loss, and pollution, the Season of Creation offers a platform for individuals and communities to engage in discussions, prayer, and practical initiatives aimed at fostering a deeper connection with the natural world and advocating for its protection. Pope Francis in his message for the world day of Prayer for the care of Creation puts forward a question: “How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our Common Home so that it can once again teem with life?” He continues by answering it: “We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.”

The message of His Holiness Pope Francis and the 3rd priority of GC XXIV beckon us to network with our neighbouring communities, in the schools, in the parishes in this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared Synodal journey, to work and pray that our Common Home will once again abound with life. It's significant to be considerate that effective networking involves building genuine relationships based on trust and mutual respect.

TEACHERS' DAY

The concept of celebrating teacher's day dates back to antique culture. In India, Teacher's Day is observed on September 5th in memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a renowned philosopher, and India's second President, who believed in the power of education. Rather than accepting gifts on his birthday, he advocated for dedicating the day to teachers, highlighting their vital role in nation-building. This tradition has since spread globally and is observed in various forms and on different dates across different cultures. The importance of Teacher's Day symbolizes the profound impact that educators have on individuals and the collective progress of a nation.



Teachers serve as mentors, guiding the students through the intricacies of learning and life. They are the architects of knowledge, responsible for building the foundation upon which students' future achievements are constructed. Beyond imparting academic knowledge, teachers instill values, ethics, and life skills that contribute to the holistic development of individuals. The relationship between a student and a teacher is one of the most endearing and impactful, shaping the perspectives and aspirations of young minds. The influence of teachers extends far beyond the classroom. They contribute significantly to the formation of a nation's intellectual capital. Every doctor, engineer, artist, and entrepreneur owes a part of their success to the patient guidance and unwavering support of their teachers. In this way, Teacher's Day stands as a tribute to the collective effort of educators who contribute to the growth and development of a nation's workforce, innovation and progress.

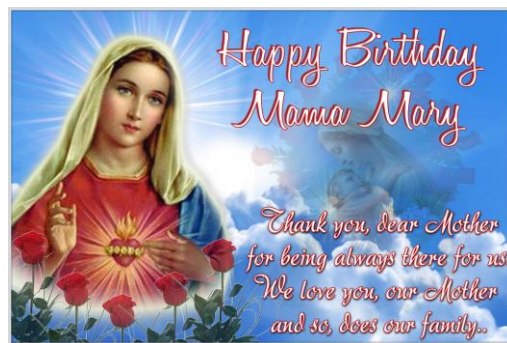
Teachers are the catalysts of the innovation. By encouraging critical thinking, fostering curiosity, and nurturing creativity, they inspire students to challenge norms and explore new horizons. Many groundbreaking discoveries and inventions can be attributed to the teachings and mentorship of educators. Recognizing and celebrating teachers through Teacher's Day not only honors their efforts but also reinforces the importance of a learning environment conducive to encourage innovation.

Teacher's Day is an occasion to foster a culture of gratitude. It provides students, both past and present, with an opportunity to express their appreciation for the guidance and support they have received. This act of gratitude not only uplifts teachers but also creates a cycle of positive energy where the recognition of efforts fuels a desire to continue nurturing future generations.

Teacher's Day reminds us of the transformative power of education and mentorship. As we honor our teachers, let us also reflect on the pivotal role played by Mother Mary in Don Bosco's life as well as in each of us. In his dream at the age of nine Jesus, who is our Lord and Master, gave little Johnny Bosco, a Mother and Teacher in the person of Mother Mary. History tells us how little Johnny grew to be great Don Bosco. The FMA constitutions speak of the identity of each Daughter of Mary Help of Christians as educator. As we celebrate Teachers' Day let us get back to the teachings of Don Bosco through Mother Mary "Not with blows but with love you need to change wolves into lambs". As we celebrate this day let us revive the Preventive System which is the hallmark of Salesian Charism. We shall earnestly strive to impart this charism of ours to the lay collaborators, and teachers of our **institutions** who play a role in shaping individuals and societies. May this celebration, not only show appreciation to the teachers but also inspire future generations to uphold the torch of knowledge, ensuring a brighter and more enlightened future for all.

BIRTHDAY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

One might wonder, why is the birthday of Our Lady so special, and what can we learn from this special event? While there are many reasons stemming from Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to commemorate Mary's birthday, there may perhaps be one simple, yet endearing significance which we will find helpful: **"Temple of the Lord"**. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin was the day that God had constructed His temple; the day on which a creature became the preferred dwelling place of God. In remembering her, we remember that God, in His grace, mystery, and love, has chosen to concern Himself with mankind so intimately as to "come to them and make our home with them" (John 14:23).



A reflection on the birth of Mary draws the mystery and wonder of God's love into focus. How is it that this indescribable God of all creation, has not only chosen a little girl to be His temple, but also chose to become incarnate through her, "so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life"(John 3:16). It is such an understanding of God - a God who is so intimately concerned with mankind - that forms the distinguishing mark of the Christian faith.

Commemorating the Nativity of Mary leads us to ponder on the divine nature of Jesus Christ, and in pondering His divinity; we come to acknowledge the immensity and humility of God's love that is offered to every person. While Blessed Mary had the special privilege to be the temple of the Lord both physically and spiritually, we are reminded that God also calls everyone to the same grace of being the dwelling place of God.

St. John affirms in his letters to the early Church, "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because he has given us of his Spirit" (1 John 4:13). Reflecting on this special importance of the Nativity of our Mother helps to put into perspective that truly, every person is a precious child of God, a temple of the Holy Spirit.

When birthdays are celebrated, we celebrate the gift of a person, the life that he or she has, and the joy that they have brought to their loved ones. But as we celebrate the birthday of Mary, we discover that there is also a bigger reason we can rejoice—God dwells in this person.

In the Catholic devotion to Mary, we see that it is because of God that she is remembered, it is the grace of God that she was made holy. Her nativity is remembered because she is the dawn that points to the coming light of Christ. In a similar way, we see that every child is called to holiness in Christ, to be the light and salt of the earth. As we celebrate the earthly birthday of Blessed Mary, let us also celebrate the joy of our identity as the dwelling place of God, His chosen people.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

September 9 and 10 mark the Centenary Celebrations at Shillong. It is marked by the presence of our beloved Mother General Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the General Councilors Sr. Celine Jacob, Sr. Nilza Fatima de Moraes and Sr. Runita Borja and the FMA Provincials of India and other representatives. Shillong having the highest number of vocations in the FMA world, and having had many missionaries as their pioneers, merit having the privilege of concluding the Centenary celebrations. It will be a mega event never to be forgotten, to be engraved in gold in the heart of every FMA in India. Those are the days

when hymns of gratitude to God, to Mother Mary Help of Christians, St. Joseph and to our Holy Founders Don Bosco and St. Maria Mazzarello will rise to heaven unceasingly and bring down further graces to start another fruitful Century. I wish the Provincials, Animators and Sisters of Shillong, Kolkata and Guwahati a glorious and fruit-bearing celebration producing spiritual blessings, growth of the mission and expansion of the Institute in all directions. EXCELSIOR! We of the INK Province lovingly accompany you with our prayers and best wishes.

On this historic occasion of recalling and reliving the Centenary of the arrival of the Six Pioneers to North East India, on 9 September will see the NATIONAL YOUTH MEET, also to mark the closing ceremony of the FMA Centenary Celebration. The curtain will fall on the centenary celebrations with a solemn Eucharist and felicitations on 10 September! "The history of FMA presence in India" will be released on this occasion. Our heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters of the History Commission for the great work put in for the past years. It was not an easy task to go to the origins of each community and bring alive the life and mission of the Sisters past and present.

Along with me the Srs. Annie John, Alice Chacko, Sherly Joseph, Maria Rajeswari, Sini Varghese, Sangitha Sahaya, Lucy Appamma, Salome Jacob, Amala Priya Arul Vanan and 10 young people will participate in the celebrations.



01- 4 TH October	SEASON OF CREATION
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
29	ARCHANGELS: MICHAEL, RAPHAEL AND GABRIEL

THANK YOU

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Sr. Sherly Joseph and the Provincial House community for organizing the animators' meeting and the solemn Jubilee celebration, and for attending to every detail of it. Thank you very much, dear sisters.

My appreciation goes to Sr. Maria Rajeshwary who motivated and encouraged the VIDES Club students backed by the staff in-charge of Auxilium School Bandapura by offering Rs. 70,000/- for Manipur relief.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS DEAR SISTERS!

Congratulations to Sr. Sumi Joseph! We rejoice with you for your achievement of doctorate and successful completion of defense.

We heartily congratulate our dear Sr. Praveena! We exult with you for your successful completion of MBA.

100th BIRTHDAY OF SR. NANCY PEREIRA



This year marks the 100th Birthday of Sr. Nancy Pereira, the Foundress of FIDES for the transformation of families and empowerment of the poor through education and service. Her Vision made her see the invisible opportunities and her mission was to solve the impossible things. She became a light to those who live in darkness and showed them what it means to love truly. One such example is Sacred Group of Institutions founded and managed by Mr. Raju a loving, humble and dedicated disciple of Sr. Nancy. Today the School imparts education to many through the School and a Degree College. In gratitude to Sr.

Nancy for the inspiration and support he received from her, Mr. Raju, the Staff and Students celebrated her 100th Birthday coupled with the Silver Jubilee of these Institutions on 17 August at the Provincial House. The photo tastefully decorated in the chapel added more festivity to the celebration. The Holy Mass was solemnized followed by presentation of the life of Sr. Nancy, prayer and blessing of her tomb, Felicitations and Lunch for all, sponsored by his family.

On Sunday 3 September FIDES Staff together with the women, youth and children will be celebrating the same, thanking God for the gift of Sr. Nancy and her vision for the future through this Foundation.

LOCAL YOUTH COORDINATORS!

The Youth Pastoral Sector of the Province coordinated by Sr. Maria Rajeswari organized a two-day Workshop on 26-27 August, for the local Youth Coordinators at Ajjanahalli *Don Bosco Spandan* animated by Fr. Anil D'Sa SDB. Twenty-one Sisters from the various communities participated in the same. They were excited as they were equipped to animate the youth in a creative and innovative way.

SOCIAL MINISTRY ANIMATION!

Sr. Rosy Lopez and Team organized a two-day animation and workshop for the Sisters and Collaborating Staff of the YAR Centers of the Province participated by seven FMAs and eight lay Staff.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES & ASSURANCE OF PRAYERS

- ✚ To Sr. Marietta K, at the loss of her sister-in-law Mrs. Mary Michael (80) on 05 August 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Lilly Chinnappan at the demise of her beloved sister Mrs. A. Arputhamary (84) on 06 August 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Litveena at the loss of her dear uncle Mr. Christopher (45) who passed away on 11 August 2023.
- ✚ To the Provincial Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil and the sisters of Province of INC at the passing away of Sr. Julita Kujur (37) on 13 August 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Thresia Augustine and Sr. Josmy Jose at the demise of their aunt Mrs Aleyamma Baby Olickal (69) on 27 August 2023.

✚ To Srs. Mary Chandy, Jissy Chandy and Shiji Abraham at the passing away of their aunt Mrs. Mariakutty Joseph Tharappel (92) on 30 August 2023.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR SICK SISTERS AND DEAR ONES

- For dear Sr. Liza Philip who underwent hernia operation and is still continuing the treatment.
- For the mother of our dear Sr. Vineetha Williams who met with an accident and is continuing the treatment.
- For the brother of Sr. Lizy C.D who met with an accident and is continuing treatment.
- For the brother of Sr. Mary V.J. who is supposed to undergo a surgery but postponed as he is very weak in health due to liver problem.
- For the brother-in-law of Sr. Lizzie Abraham who met with a bike accident and is in the ICU.

CONCLUSION

Prior to the opening of the II Vatican Council when Pope St. John XXIII was asked what the main purpose of this Council was, He said: “To open the windows of the Church and let in some fresh air”. One of the windows he opened was the window of relationship with other religions. One of the Documents of the Council is “*Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*”, in which the Council gives clear indications on what, should be our attitude towards our brothers and sisters of other Faiths.

The Celebration of the World Youth Day at Lisbon and the forth coming Synod on Synodality for which Pope Francis had been preparing the whole Church from the year 2021, are other incentives which should spur us on towards relationship and Communion. The Synod was formally opened on 9 October 2021 with the theme: “Communion, Participation, Mission”. The final gathering will be in October 2023 in Rome. For the first time in the 2000+ year history of the Church, 1.37 billion Catholics have been invited to join in this two-year long process of listening and discernment. Much work has been going on at the grass-root level. As children of Don Bosco whose love for the Church, we have the bounden duty to pray earnestly and offer sacrifices for the fruitful outcome of this Synod on Synodality.

Let us take this path of relationship and communion beginning from our own communities and work place and then move on to wider circles. Let Mary be our inspiration in this important journey which will ask of us for a compassionate and sacrificing love. Reflecting on the Sorrows of Mary St. Anselm says: “While other martyrs suffered by sacrificing their own lives, the Blessed Virgin suffered by sacrificing her Son’s life, a Life that she loved far more than her own; so that she not only suffered in her soul all that her Son endured in His Body but moreover, the sight of her Son’s torments, brought more grief to her heart, than if she had endured them all in her own person”.

Good wishes and prayerful greetings to all in the Family.

Affectionately,



Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil
Provincial