



**XXXI/ 05**

**01 October 2023**

**My dearest Sisters,**

**Prayerful and affectionate Greetings from the Provincial House Bangalore!**

The Centenary celebrations of FMA India came to a close on 10<sup>th</sup> September with solemn Closing Ceremony preceded by the national level Youth Meet and concelebrated Holy Eucharist at Auxilium Nongthymmai Shillong which was a crowning event to the three yearlong preparations to mark the 100 years FMA presence in the North East. We were privileged to have our beloved Superior General Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the three General Councilors Sr. Celine Jacob, Sr. Nilza Fatima de Moraes and Sr. Runita Borja. The joyful experience of their loving presence and inspiring words creates ripples in our hearts and minds, and renew our enthusiasm for greater commitment to strive for personal holiness and for the growth of our charism. The celebrations with the responsible collaboration and participation of the Salesian Family, Educating Community and especially Past Pupils unfold to us the volumes of the life and growth of the charism. The appreciation and support of the Government of Meghalaya and Civil Authorities are to be noted as they expressed how much we are welcomed and appreciated for the commendable service done to the Society and the valuable contribution of the Salesian charism in the field of Education.

At the closing ceremony Mother General released the volumes of the History of FMA presence in India - First of the three volumes of South India and three volumes of Northern India. The Sisters of the History Commission have done a great work and we are grateful to them.

We congratulate and extend our sincere thanks to Sr. Elizabeth George, Provincial of INS, the Sisters and their Collaborators for the beautiful and meaningful celebration of the Centenary of the FMA presence, with the involvement of all our Provinces, Sisters, Young people, Educating Community and Salesian Family.

### **FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH**

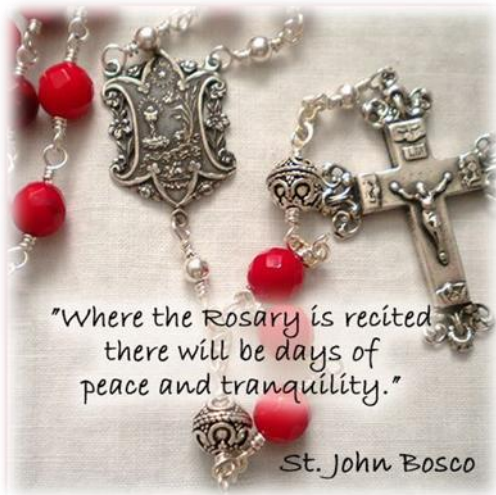
The month of October is here, bringing important events and celebrations: On 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate the feast of our Guardian Angels, reminding us to be Guardian Angels of the young people to whom we are sent. On 4<sup>th</sup> October is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi the Saint of Ecology which is also the name feast of our beloved Pope Francis, inviting us to intensify our prayers for him as he has to face the tough challenges of guiding the barque of the Church safely through these troubled times. On 7<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Holy Rosary, the unfailing weapon against the powers of evil! On 22<sup>nd</sup> the Mission Sunday, we are invited to participate with the Church in her missionary enterprises.

Among all these, stands most important event of this year, **the First Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church** scheduled to be held in Rome from 4-29 October 2023. A “Synod” is a journey of discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit. **Communion,**

**Participation and Mission are the three key words of the Synod: Communion and Mission describe the mystery of the Church. Communion expresses the very nature of the Church, according to II Vatican Council.** Pope Francis whose heart is larger than the sands on the sea shore, wanted the entire Church- all the faithful especially the lay people at local Churches across the world to **participate** in this great event at the parish or diocesan levels, to discern how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ so that we may continue to fulfill her mission to evangelize the world. During early 2021, listening sessions were held in dioceses around the world. At the same time, Pope Francis stressed that the Synod is not a parliament, nor an investigation into opinions, but an “ecclesial moment” **whose** protagonist is the Holy Spirit. “Without the Spirit, there is no Synod”- the Pope affirmed. He wants all to listen with open hearts and minds, to share from their own lived experiences, and to make space for the voices of those often marginalized or excluded.

**Communion** has at its roots the love and unity of the Trinity and finally, **Mission** implies evangelization, but “not marketing of a religious product, rather it is the construction of a community in which relationships are a manifestation of God’s love and therefore whose very life becomes a proclamation (Instrumentum laboris n.52).

## MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY



In the Last Years, with the passing of time *Don Bosco* was known more and more as the ‘*Saint of the Help of Christians*’ and *Mary* as the ‘*Madonna of Don Bosco.*’ When the people asked for his miracles at Paris in 1883, the saint replied: “I am a sinner, pray for me. But we shall invoke Our Lady together. It is she who cures the sick, who listens to our prayers, who understands us and has compassion on us. I can do nothing but pray to the Madonna.”

We read in the Biographies of Memoirs of Don Bosco that he had the feeling of hearing her and of seeing her physically present in his works. He was moved while dictating a letter from Rome in May 1884 regarding the state of the Oratory as it was in the early years. Suddenly he burst out crying “I tell you, may God be my witness, it is enough that a boy enters a Salesian House for Mary to take him under her special protection.”

We are at the threshold of October, a month dedicated to Holy Rosary and each year the church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary on the Seventh of this month. The Holy Rosary is a family devotion and a family prayer. It is a personal devotion which is at the heart of Christian and religious practice which invites all to meditate upon the mysteries of Christ, following the example of Mary who was so singularly associated with the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The church celebrates this feast to honour Mary and commemorates this day for the graces received through her intercession. As Daughters of Mary let us cling on to this devotion and impart the same to our recipients-pupils, and other members of the educating community and reach out to our neighbouring families. At Mornese, Maria Mazzarello and Petronilla prayed the rosary together with the girls who came to the work room. Where Mary is present, we will be able to do the will of God as she always guides us in the path of God. Through various groups like BCC, pious associations, ADMA, Salesian Family and educating communities, let us motivate the families to be faithful to this very efficacious prayer.

## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 23 OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday is an annual event celebrated by the Catholic Church to promote awareness and support for mission work around the globe. Typically observed on the penultimate Sunday of October every year, this day serves as a reminder of the Church's commitment to spreading the Gospel, aiding those in need, and fostering a sense of global unity. The theme for World Mission Sunday, for this year is

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move. Pope Francis drew inspiration from the biblical account of the disciples who encountered Jesus on their way to Emmaus (Lk: 24:13-35). This theme encapsulates the essence of missionary work, igniting passion and propelling action in the service of spreading the Gospel.

Through the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus Pope speaks about the transformative power of encountering Christ. As they walked, their hearts burned with new found understanding and faith, and their feet carried them back to Jerusalem with an urgent message. This narrative reminds us that faith isn't passive but a force that sets our hearts ablaze and motivates us to share the Good News.

**"Hearts on fire"** symbolizes the ardor, zeal and spiritual fervour that missionary work demands. It reflects the deep love for God and humanity that drive missionaries to cross cultural and geographical boundaries, facing challenges and hardships, with unwavering faith. **"Feet on the Move"** represents the action and commitment required in mission work. Just as the disciples hurried back to Jerusalem to share their experience with others, missionaries tirelessly journey to remote corners of the world, serving, teaching, healing and providing hope to those in need.

World Mission Sunday encourages the global Christian community to reflect on their own missionary call. In a world marked by divisions and uncertainties, the theme "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move" reminds us that the transformative encounter with Christ isn't just a historical event; it's an ongoing, life-altering experience that compels us to share the warmth of our faith and the hope of salvation with the world. On this special day, Christians worldwide unite in prayer, reflection, and generous support of missionary endeavors, reaffirming their commitment to kindle the fire of faith in hearts and set feet in motion towards brighter, more compassionate world. Missionaries play a vital role in providing humanitarian aid, education, healthcare, and spiritual guidance to these communities. World mission Sunday also recognizes the sacrifice and dedication of missionaries who leave their homes and families to serve in foreign lands. Their work is a testament to the Church's commitment to social justice and alleviating human suffering. Let us offer special prayers for these brothers and sisters of ours so that they may be blessed abundantly by the Spirit of God to keep their Hearts on fire and feet on the move.



- 01 - ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS
- 02 - FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS
- 04 - FRANCIS OF ASSISI – CLOSING OF THE SEASON OF CREATION  
OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY
- 05 - BL. ALBERTO MARVELLI
- 07 - FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY
- 11 - ST. JOHN XXIII
- 12 - BL. ALESSANDRINA da COSTA
- 15 - ST. TERESA OF AVILA, PATRONESS OF OUR INSTITUTE
- 22 - WORLD MISSION SUNDAY  
ST. JOHN PAUL II
- 24 - BLESSED LOUIS GUANELLA
- 28 - FEAST OF STS. SIMON & JUDE
- 29 - BL. MICHAEL RUA

## **ASIAN PROVINCIALS' RETREAT**

The FMA Provincials of Asia and Oceania will have Annual Spiritual Retreat animated by Mother General at Sampran, Thailand. I will be absent from the Province from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13th October for the Retreat and Meeting of the Provincials. The Provincial Vicar, Sr. Annie John will take care of the ordinary running of the Province. I thank Sr. Annie and all of you for accompanying us with your prayerful support.

## **NEW ANIMATOR OF GAVARAVARM COMMUNITY**

Mother General and the Council have confirmed the appointment of Sr. Victoria Rani Marsakatla as the new Animator of Auxilium Gavaravaram Community. We thank and congratulate Sr. Victoria Rani and extend our prayerful support to her for the accomplishment of the new mission entrusted to her. It is not easy for the Guntur Community the change of the School Principal at this time of the year. But we believe that the Lord will provide.

## **NEW CARDINALS**

On 30 September 2023 saw the creation of 20 new Cardinals in St. Peter's Square. We have reasons to rejoice along with the entire Salesian Family as one among the new Cardinals is our Rector Major Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime. One of the most awaited moments for the Salesian world is today 1 October, when the 10<sup>th</sup> Successor of Don Bosco will celebrate his first Mass as Cardinal in the Sacred Heart Basilica of Rome, which Don Bosco erected as an international Centre of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the cost of much sacrifice and effort. We thank God for this blessing showered on the family of Don Bosco.

We are grateful to the Rector Major for the precious gift he is offering to the Salesian Family:

### **STRENNA 2024**

*"The dream that makes you free"*

*A heart that transforms 'wolves' into lambs.*

## **SEMINARS AND MEETINGS!**

- The Principals of Kerala Region met together at Angamaly on 22 September. The meeting was organized by Sr. Annie John, Education Coordinator of the Province with the theme Leadership in School Management with a special focus on "Empowering Leaders where Vision meets Education".
- Sr. Annie John will organize the meeting of the Principals of Andhra and Telangana on 19 October at Ongole.
- Sr. Jayanthi Boyopati, the Mission Coordinator of the Province will participate in the South Asia Seminar on Mission at Don Bosco Institute Guwahati from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## **PCI NATIONAL FORMATORS' MEET**

Sr. Sangitha Sahaya Rani, National Coordinator for Formation is organizing a three-day animation programme for the Formators from the FMA Provinces of India at Sacred Heart Provincial House Bangalore. We welcome our Sisters and wish them an enriching and empowering experience.

## **REGIONAL YOUTH MEET**

The Regional Youth Meet of the Kerala Region will take place in Auxilium Centre Angamaly 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, coordinated by Sr. Gigi Paul, Regional Youth Coordinator. I wish all the participants young people and FMA Animators a blessed time and may it be a time to consider deeply the vocational dimension of our Youth Ministry.

## **INITIATION OF ASPIRANTS!**

11 Candidates will be initiated as Aspirants this year. We thank God for the young people who choose to follow the Lord in the Salesian way. Their decision to embark on this spiritual journey of faith is a proof of their courage and commitment to live a life aligned with God's love and teaching. As they step into a new venture let us accompany and support them with our prayer.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

- We celebrate alongside the entire Institute as we congratulate Mother Yvonne Reungoat who has been selected as a participant in the Synod of Bishops. This honour stands as a remarkable testament to her unwavering dedication, expertise, steadfast commitment and significant contribution to the shared cause. It is a sign of recognition and appreciation from the part of the Church and in particular of Pope Francis of her presence and contribution.
- Hearty Congratulations to Sr. Josmy Jose, whose dedication and perseverance have led her to the remarkable achievement of successfully completing her post-doctoral research at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. This milestone is a testament to her hard work and commitment to scholarly excellence, and we wish her continued success in all her endeavours.

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

- ✚ To Sr. Anice Joseph at the loss of her dear Father Mr. Joseph Chennatt (91) on 05 September, 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Celine Maria Selvam at the loss of her dear mother Mrs. Teresa Selvam (85) on 7 September, 2023.
- ✚ To Srs. Susie and Sicily Paul, at the loss of their cousin sister Sr. Carmelita FCC (82) on 13 September 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Mary Joseph K.J. at the departure of her dear aunt Mrs. El Semma Sebastian (69) on 15 September 2023.
- ✚ To Fr. Lynkot Paul Olphindro, provincial and the confreres of Shillong Province at the demise of Deacon Lohteibok Nongkhlaw SDB (29) on 25 September, 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil Provincial of INC province at the passing away of her beloved Mother Mrs. Clarakutty Palliparambil (84) on 26 September 2023.
- ✚ To Sr. Elsa Devasia at the loss of her beloved aunt Mrs. Mariakutty Matthai (75) on 27 September 2023.

**May their Souls Rest in Peace!**

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

- ❖ The grand niece of Sr. Agnes Fernandez who is still undergoing the treatment.
- ❖ The mother of Srs. Mary and Molly Joseph who is seriously ill.
- ❖ The two elder sisters of Sr. Aliamma Joseph who are sick and ailing.
- ❖ The brother of Sr. Mary V.J. who is serious and is in the ICU.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I conclude, I would like to highlight the two Biblical passages that inspired the Synodal Assembly: i) the Pentecostal experience, where the Apostles being filled with the Spirit were led to mission; and ii), the Emmaus experience where the disciples said to one another, ‘were not our hearts burning within us when He talked to us’? The theme for the Mission Sunday *Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move* takes us on the same journey. It is good to ask ourselves whether we have the missionary spirit of the early Church; of the first years of our Province. “...ready to go anywhere, to face poverty, hardships and privations of any kind?”

As we set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ has bestowed upon all humanity, let us keep ourselves informed of what is happening around the world. Thousands of children who died of starvation in Sudan where Sisters of our Province are also working to the degree of heroism to attenuate their pitiable condition... the protracted sufferings of the people of Ukraine from an unjust war ... Coming to our own land, the horrendous happenings in Manipur. Do we include them in our daily prayer and sacrifices? Have we taken any step to alleviate their sufferings?

As we reflect on our missionary call, the Word of God and theme for the Mission Sunday invite us to examine our hearts, rekindling the flame of faith, and challenges us to step out of our comfort zones, embarking on journeys of compassion, service and evangelization. Let us pray and act in a tangible way.

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

*Sr Lucy Rose*

**Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil  
Provincial**