



**CIR. NO. 50**

**AUGUST 2021**

Dearest Sisters!

Joy wells up from our hearts as we think of our **first commitment** to the Lord and the **foundation day of our Institute** on **August 5**. The cause of our joy as we commemorate this day is our ardent desire to know, love, serve and be with him for all eternity in paradise. The month of August redoubles our joy as we recall Mary as the patron of our Nation which celebrates its **75 Independence day**. John Paul II said that the **Assumption** truly was an event of love, in which Mary's ardent longing to be with her son was finally fulfilled. In contemplating Mary in celestial glory we comprehend that she gracefully accepted varied experiences of *letting go* in her life.

### **THE JOY OF LETTING GO**

Being the daughter of Mary Help of Christians, Mary Mazzarello understood that to enjoy the bliss of Paradise in her life, she needed to embrace a string of experiences of *letting go*. Let us have a glimpse of the incidents in the life of St. Mary Mazzarello where the complete detachment was demanded in a variety of ways, which also evokes a creative response from each one of us today. Mother Mazzarello before her illness was the right hand of her father and mother in her family. When typhoid was spreading virulently in her village, at the request of her spiritual director, she renders her dauntless service. As Maria's sewing class became established, she and her companions adapted to live as a community. Owing to this commitment, they were not always available for parish meetings or traditional apostolates of the group. To avoid the scandal a split might cause, Fr. Pestarino banished Maria to Valpanasca, only allowing her to come to the village for Mass and the Sunday gatherings with the girls. Maria obeyed but this must have meant a particularly difficult *letting go* for her. After about a month, Maria was called back to the village to help prepare for the arrival of the great Don Bosco and his lively band of boys who were coming to Mornese during one of their famous Autumn Walks. It was not only Maria who was glad to be back to her work, the girls and their mothers were delighted to see her too

The transfer of the motherhouse from Mornese to Nizza was another painful moment of *letting go*. Up to this time, Maria had always lived in her native Mornese. She had seen it grow from dream to reality, from a tiny seed to a congregation, which had already spread outside her native Italy to France and even to far off South America. Through the transfer of the motherhouse, she was asked to part from the house of her dreams, the house of her life's work, sell the property to pay the debts of the growing Congregation. Her letters of this time give us a glimpse of her feelings as she said in one of her letters,

“We must always make sacrifices while we are on this earth.

Let us make them willingly and cheerfully and  
the Lord will take note of everything and in his own time will give us a beautiful reward.”

As her life drew to a close, she showed remarkable realism in looking at her role. She even tried to convince others that someone else could fulfil it better than she could by then and that replacing her then would actually avoid confusion at her death.

Another area which called for continual *letting go* especially in her later years were the constant goodbyes, both to those who left for faraway places where she would never see them again and the many who died. For Maria, these people were not lost but could be met and spoken to: in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy communion was a time of meeting not only with Jesus but also with all those we love, both living and dead. In this time of Pandemic, we too have lost our dear ones. They are not lost to us. We too can meet them and continue to support them and be helped by the in the heart of the Risen Jesus in whom neither time nor space matters.

Another very painful form of *letting go* was caused by some of her first companions who chose to leave the congregation and no longer walk the path of Salesian religious life with her. With a heavy heart she states “If we were to continue like this, the poor house of Mary would be deserted in a few years” Much of the *letting go* that we see in Maria’s life, as in our own came as a response to circumstances, many of which were beyond her control. It was how she responded to situations that shows her spiritual strength. Both her human and her spiritual outlook on life helped her in this.

The three qualities that helped Mother Mazzarello to let go were her capacity to listen and accept the opinions of others, her sense of realism and her strong and courageous faith. So in a way, what she might be saying to us today is that *letting go* has to be easier if we truly believe as she did, that nothing or no one is ever really lost to us, provided we are close to God. We can meet all our dear ones in the Heart of Jesus. We will all be united once more in his kingdom and all we have given up for God’s sake is in safekeeping. In this journey Mary follows our steps, she comforts us in the hour of darkness, reassures us with her maternal hand. Sustained by this awareness, let us continue with trust on our pathway of religious commitment where Providence leads us. Let us, under Mary’s guidance, go forward in our lives.

Let us pay heed to the voice of our Mother General who in her circular 1011 exhorts us to make an appointment in prayer and communion, to celebrate August 5, renewing our gratitude for being a religious family desired by Mary and which belongs entirely to her. The feast of Our Lady of Snow is also an occasion to praise and thank God for his providential care in our Province and each one of us. Let us also remember to entrust the entire Province to Mary as we make an act of entrustment on 5 August 2021.

## **WITHIN THE FAMILY:**

**THE FIRST GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERS DAY:** One of the most beautiful things we cherish in our communities is the presence of our elderly Sisters for they are looked upon as a guarantee of God’s blessing on the community. It was an opportune moment to celebrate our elders above seventy years in our communities and the Province as Pope Francis established World Day for Grandparents and the elderly for the first time on the fourth Sunday of July close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne. We look upon you, our senior sisters as a special presence of fidelity and offering in our communities. We value your wisdom and experience of old age. Though your energies are declining, you still offer us a specific spiritual richness. We thank you for being a witness of the tenderness

of a faithful God and channels of peace, welcoming the new generation with kindness. We thank you for the prayers, support and encouragement you give to our sisters who are engaged in active ministry. We pray that you live your lives in hope and serene abandonment to God's will.

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- Hearty congratulations to Fr. Angelo Sylvester Miranda, (Roshan), the present Vice - Provincial, who has been appointed by the Rector Major as the 4 Provincial Superior of the Salesian Vice-Province of St. Joseph, Sri Lanka (LKC). We implore God's blessings on him as he assumes the task of animation and governance of the Vice-Province.
- Our prayerful greetings to Msgr. Arokiaraj Savarimuthy - Bishop-elect of Tiruchirapally Diocese whose Episcopal Ordination will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral on 15 August 2021, Sunday at 5.00 p.m.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:** The Conference of Catholic Bishops India - CCBI in its 9 circulars has announced a one-hour National Prayer Service on Saturday, 7 August 2021, from 8.30 to 9.30 pm, to pray for the departed souls, express solidarity with the grieving families and communities and pray for the health of the world. The special prayer service with a Eucharistic benediction will be telecast on Madha TV, Shalom TV, Goodness TV, Divyavani TV, Atmadarshan TV, Ishvani TV, CCR TC and Prarthana Bhawan TV. It will also be streamed through leading Catholic YouTube channels. Uniting ourselves with all our brothers and sisters, let us pray for the whole world, which needs God's mercy and healing.

**GENERAL CHAPTER XXIV:** We are on the verge of entering into the historical event of the celebration of GCXXIV, which will nourish in all of us and in the educating communities a new impetus to travel the path of holiness and creative fidelity to the Salesian Charism. Let us intensify our prayers and invoke the Holy Spirit to lead the members of the Chapter to choose the path of new wine with the young people in a more fruitful educational freshness. Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam – Vice Provincial and Sr. Ambrose Little Flower will participate in the General Chapter XXIV, which will be held from 11 September to 24 October 2021. Their departure is scheduled for 27 August 2021. Let us accompany them with our prayers.

**THE FEAST OF BLESSED MARIA TRONCATTI:** We celebrate with joy the feast of Blessed Maria Troncatti on 25 August. We remember her with admiration and gratitude, for her everyday sanctity and spirituality lived with simplicity and heroism. Hers was holiness accessible to all because it has the flavour of everyday life, interwoven with ordinary gestures of love. Sr. Maria was humbly open to God, and each sister and brother. The Ecuadorian forest was the "land of her heart", the place of her irrevocable option for the poor. By her own choice, she never returned to the land of her origins. She remained in her mission land until she was called by the Lord to be with Him forever! Cardinal Angelo Amato while speaking about Sr. Maria Troncatti said that she was a messenger of peace, offering her life so that it might be restored between the colonists and the Shuar people. "She showed the maternal face of a good and merciful God". She was capable of fulfilling works of mercy, giving food to those who were hungry, drink to those who were thirsty, caring for the sick,

visiting those who found themselves in difficulty. Her life is an invitation to continue along the path of complete giving of self for the education of young people, for the smallest, and those most in need.

**THE PROVINCIAL TEAM - 2021:** We are grateful to Sr. Remegius Angel Veda the Provincial Team Member for Young at Risk, Migrants and Non Formal sectors (2017 – 2021), Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdhu Mary for Mission ad/ inter Gentes (2019 – 2021) and Sr. Vedamuthu Santiago Theresa ( 2017 – 2021) for their creative, committed and generous service in the animation and execution of the plan and vision of the Province. We implore God’s blessings on you and all your endeavours.

We congratulate and welcome with joy the following new Provincial Team Members and ask our Blessed Mother to bless and guide them in the new responsibilities entrusted to their care.

Young at Risk, Migrants and Non-Formal  
Mission ad/ inter Gentes  
Social Communication

Sr. Anthony Muthu Lourdu Mary  
Sr. Savari Raj Arockia Sophiya  
Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy

### **OUR HEARTFELT THANKS:**

- To Sr Maria Luisa Miranda, the General Councillor for Salesian Family and her collaborators Sr Gabriela Patiño Osorio FMA, World Delegate of the Past Pupils and Sr Lucrecia Uribe FMA, World Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators and ADMA, for organizing a **Webinar for the PCI Formators on 3 July 2021** from 12.30 to 2.00 p.m. we extend our thanks to Sr Maria Nieves Reboso, the General Councillor for formation, for her introductory talk in which she spelt out how to network as a Salesian family to enhance the legacy received from the founders. Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam - Vice Provincial and responsible for ongoing formation, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela - Provincial Councillor responsible for Initial Formation, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy - Province Delegate for Salesian Co-operators, Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha - Assistant for Novices participated in the meeting.
- To Sr Audate Annice, the World Delegate of VIDES international, who organized **International VIDES Online General Body Meeting on 3 and 4 July 2021** during which Our Mother General Yvonne Reungoat and Sr Borja Runita, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry addressed the gathering. Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi participated in the online election of the administrative council members held on 4 July 2021 followed by a discussion on the forthcoming General Body Meet to be held in July 2022.
- to Sr Borja Runita, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Rome, for her presentation of the theme: «Embracing Ecological Spirituality and cultivating ecological virtues», during the **Tri-Monthly Recollection** for INM and INT Provinces on **31 July 2021**. Our heartfelt thanks to Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala who arranged for this joint recollection and the sisters who prepared the Examination of Conscience and adoration based on Pope Francis’ message on “Show Mercy to our Common Home”

- To the FMA Past Pupils, the World Confederation of Mornese organized an online **International Congress for Past Pupils** from **30 July to 2 August 2021** on the theme “What resilience for the Association: The challenges, paths and perspectives”. The meeting aimed to draw action guidelines of the world confederation for six years (2021 – 2027). Sr Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia, the province Delegate of the Past Pupils and Mrs. Irudaya Mary Daniel - President of Past Pupils Association of the Province participated in the meeting. The World Federation Council has elected Mrs. Valentina Usha from INM Province as a Past Pupil representative of Indian Provinces. We congratulate Valentina and implore God’s blessings on her.
- To Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia who organized an online Past Pupils Meeting for all the delegates, office bearers and the past Pupils from nine units in the Province. Hundred and ninety members participated in the meeting which was animated by Fr. Amala Jeyarayan SDB from ITI, Madurai on the theme Youthful Volunteerism on **1 August 2021**. This was followed by a discussion facilitated by Sr. Auxilia Sophia on the action plan for the year 2021 - 2022.

### **FORTHCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past Pupils’ Meet</li> <li>• Orientation on Critical Thinking, Childrights &amp; CPP, CPC- Villages</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catechetical Seminar for the Teachers – South Zone - I</li> <li>• Youth Pastoral Coordinators Meet</li> <li>• YAR, NFE and women Coordinators meet – director, coordinators and warden</li> <li>• Women Coordinators Meet – sister responsible and 2 SHG members</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Animators meeting</b></li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For all the Sisters</b></li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Salesian Cooperators (ASC) INT Zonal Level Animation - Madurai zone</li> <li>• Animation on COVID 19 prevention – Parents of evening study Centres.</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial Council</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Past Pupils Meet</li> <li>• Animation on “I Can” - Dream Session - Selected evening study centre children</li> <li>• Animation on COVID 19 prevention – Parents of evening study Centres.</li> </ul>
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catechetical Seminar for Sisters – Sisters who teach Catechesis in the Schools</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catechetical Seminar for Teachers - South Zone II</li> <li>• ASC INT Provincial Council Meet – FMA SDB Provincial Council Members</li> <li>• Junior IAS Academy Training – Mariyalaya VII to X standard Children</li> <li>• Session on psychological care and Positive Parenting - SHG Women and Coordinators</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior IAS Academy Training - Marialaya VII to X standard Children.</li> </ul>
31 – 1 Sep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mornese Experience for the Novices</li> </ul>

## LET'S CELEBRATE AUGUST 2021

- 05 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major  
Our Lady of Snows
- 06 The Transfiguration of the Lord.
- 14 St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe
- 15 The Assumption of BVM (Principal Patroness of India)
- 16 Birthday of St. John Bosco
- 24 St. Bartholomew AP.
- 25 Blessed Maria Troncatti
- 30 St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal, Vir.

## OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS:

† Mr. Leo (42) the elder brother of Sr. Jenny Grace and the nephew of Sr. Gloria Navaneetham who passed away on 19 July 2021.

† To Fr. K.M. Jose, the Provincial and the confreres of SDB INM Province and Sr. Arul Josephine at the passing away of Fr. Durairaj Vincent SDB (84) the former Provincial of INM on 31 July 2021.

† To Rev. Fr. Jose Mathew Koorappalli - the Provincial and the Confreres of New Delhi at the loss of Rev. Fr. George Nadackal SDB on 2 August 2021.

Let us also pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Stan Swamy** (84) a human activist who according to Asia's Catholic bishops hail as «martyr of the marginalized», an Indian Jesuit priest who campaigned for indigenous rights, died on July 5 2021 under detention in a hospital in Mumbai, while being treated for Covid-19. May his determination never to succumb to evil echo in our lives too.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret  
Provincial.