



**Cir. NO. 54**

**DECEMBER - 2021**

Dearest Sisters,

Warm and affectionate greetings from Auxilium Provincial House to each one of you.

### *The first bed for the Son of God*

There are some wells that don't run dry. Some horizons that expand as you approach. Some stories that reach *back* forever, *forward* into eternity, *down* to the depths of mystery, and *up* to the heights of glory. Advent is one of those. It is inexhaustible. We shall contemplate on the first bed of the Son of God as we prepare ourselves for the feast of Christmas.

*When the child Jesus was born, his mother Mary laid him in a manger (Lk 2:7).*

The word "manger" comes from the Latin word *munducare* which means "to eat." A manger or crib is a wooden or stone feeding trough or food box that holds hay for larger farm animals like cattle, horses, and donkeys. Mangers were located wherever livestock was kept, places like stables, corrals, or caves. Farmers were sure to keep their mangers well-supplied with fodder at all times so the animals would never go hungry. The cattle can walk up to a manger at any time, and then spend long, leisure hours chomping away, chewing, and slowly re-chewing their cud.

In the most famous Christmas paragraphs in the Bible, Luke rivets our attention on the manger three times: "She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and *laid him in a manger*, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2: 7, "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and *lying in a manger*." Luke 2: 12, "They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby *lying in a manger*." Luke 2:16. "The first bed for the Son of God was not a royal cradle. It was a common corn crib."

Jesus was not laid in a manger by accident. It is a major spiritual symbol. Animals go to the manger for physical food, but with Jesus lying on the hay, we can go to the manger for spiritual food. Jesus has an infinite storehouse of nourishment available, and we can approach him any time and never go hungry.

Jesus feeds us with Word and Sacrament, his Gospel and the Eucharist. Jesus wants us to devour his word (Jer 15:16; Ez 3:1; Rev 10:9-10), chew on it, slowly ruminate on its meaning, swallow and digest it, and make it part of the fabric of our being. Jesus' Word is like no other food, it has the power to save our souls (Jas 1:21). Not only that, the infant in the feeding trough is the Bread of Life (Jn 6:35), the true bread come down from heaven, and whoever eats this bread will live forever (Jn 6:51). If a person wants to be spiritually well-fed, it is important to read Scripture and receive the Eucharist often. The manger is a momentous sign that Jesus is sustenance for us. The shepherds feasted first. Now it is our turn. Jesus born on the first Christmas is food for our souls. May the Word of God dwell and become flesh in us so that our life may reflect God's glory.

## WITHIN THE FAMILY:

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Mother Chiara Cazzuola, in greeting the FMAs the world over, on the occasion of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary says: This is the “**beautiful day**”! This is how Mother Mazzarello defines the days of the novena and the feast of MARY IMMACULATE! (L 16 to the Sisters of Borgo San Martino). Truly everything becomes beautiful with her. The Christian people live this feast as the triumph of the *beauty of grace* and celebrate Mary with the most beautiful and intense expressions of nature, of creation. In Valdocco, in Mornese, in our houses, for 150 years we have been singing to Mary with particular affection. The Marian Circle that is celebrated in each community unites us in invoking her in languages from all over the world. One wonders on what other day, if not December 8, could the call to a ‘poor priest’ and a boy to embody the Salesian charism be fulfilled, so that young people, avid for the future, for beauty, for joy would not be disappointed? We were there too in the seed. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by the Mother of Jesus, a sign of joy, hope, daring who constantly encourages us to do whatever He tells us and makes us generative communities illumined by His presence.

**152 MISSIONARY EXPEDITION:** The month of November is considered a Mission Month in the Salesian Tradition, recalling the first missionary expedition to America on 11 November 1875. This year too on **21 November** during the Eucharistic Celebration in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, the Missionary Crosses were consigned to nine Salesian missionaries and ten FMA missionaries of the 152 Missionary Expedition. Let us accompany them with our powerful prayers and revive our missionary spirit in our communities.

**CENTENARY PREPARATION:** 24 November 2021 was a red-lettered day in the annals of FMA PCI as it launched the third year in preparation for the centenary of the arrival of the Pioneers to India. To commemorate this day in a significant way, a zoom meeting was held at 6.30 p.m. The meeting commenced with a prayer, followed by a spectacular display of the one-minute videos highlighting the hoisting of the centenary flag in all the communities of seven Provinces of India. The panel discussion was headed by Sr. Teresa Joseph with Mrs Apurbaa Deb Choudhury, Teacher, Auxilium, Baroda, Mrs Lilly Florence, Parent, responsible for COVID-Ward, Ms Mercy Sanjana, III B.A. English, Auxilium College, Katpadi and Sr Nirmala Mummadi FMA INK on Journeying together today was an inspiring moment. The presentation of A Video clipping on Joy in the life of Don Bosco was prepared by Sr. Chacko Alice and the release of the book by Sr D’Silva Meenakshi, Provincial of INB “**Come Let us Journey Together into our Common Home**” authored by Sr. Chacko Alice was a memorable one. The Centenary Anthem sung by the Novices of Shillong was a scintillating display of harmonious voices coupled with graceful actions. We owe our gratitude to Sr. Joseph Teresa and Sr. Hilda Braganza the general coordinator and the coordinator for the Souvenir committee who coordinated the event.

We are grateful to Sr. Teresa Joseph for animating the **FMA India Centenary Committee Coordinators Zoom Meet** on 10 November 2021 from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.

**THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM - A RESEARCH:** The Pontifical Faculty of Education “Auxilium”, Rome has ventured a research entitled: “**The Conception and Experience of The Preventive System Today Between Lay / Lay Educators/Educators and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians**” in view of the 150-anniversary celebration of the FMA Institute. Representing PCI Sr D’Silva Meenakshi, Provincial INB will be the referent, and we are glad that

Sr. Antony Regina is one of the members of the focus group from our Province. She will attend regular meetings which will be conducted online and will be trained to research the practice of the Preventive system in our context. Three persons from our Province will be chosen to collaborate with the focus research group. We Wish them a very fruitful search.

**UPR TRAINING BY IIMA:** Sr Sarah Garcia FMA, Director, International Institute of Maria Ausiliatrice, Human Rights Office, Geneva, is responsible for the **Universal Periodical Review (UPR)** training by IIMA in view of India's 4<sup>th</sup> UPR Cycle to be completed by November 2022. Sr. Rathinaswamy Regina is chosen to coordinate the work at the PCI level. Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi – the core group member, National Social Development Office Coordinator, Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary – Team Member for Human Rights Education, Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary – responsible for Social Ministry, and Mrs. Gifita one of the staff working in Social Development Office will collaborate with Sr. Regina in UPR which will help us to value human rights, and build a humane and a peaceful world.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME:** Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary, Provincial Team member responsible for Human Rights Education took part in the State Level Consultation cum Planning Meeting on “Constitutional Rights Education Programme for Children in Schools and Hostels”. The meeting was organized by the Tamil Nadu Social Service Society (TANCEAN) in Tiruchirapalli on 13 November 2021. Mr. M.A Britto the coordinator for Van Mughil Programme and his team were the resource persons of the day. The aim of Constitutional Rights Education – (CRE) is to build the young citizens in values based on Human rights. The two demands put forth by CRE clubs to the Government of Tamil Nadu were to take a policy decision that all up to eighteen years are children and implement Constitutional Rights Education a regular subject in all schools in Tamil Nadu.

**THE SALESIAN FAMILY SPIRITUALITY DAY:** The Salesian Family Spirituality Day was held at Lourdes Shrine, Madurai on 28 November 2021. The meeting aimed to prepare for the worldwide Salesian Family Spirituality Days which will be held from 13 to 16 January 2022 in Valdocco, Turin. Nearly fifty SDB, FMA Salesian Family Co-operators, Past Pupils, local delegates, Executive SMA, ADMA, VDB participated in the meeting. Thanks for the enriching sharing of Fr. Thomas Louis on the Spirituality of St. Francis De Sales, Identity Charter of the Salesian Family, and Fr. Amos Gandhi on Strenna 2022. Group Discussions, sharing of experiences and Celebration of Holy Mass were other highlights of the day. Thanks to the Rector and the confreres of Lourdes Shrine who hosted the meeting.

**BOSCOREE:** Fr. Januarius Sangma SDB, Provincial of Guwahati has sent the Convocation letter communicating the next **BOSCOREE** to be held from **29 December 2022 to 2 January 2023** at Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia Gardens, Guwahati. Let us prepare our students much ahead of time to participate in it with enthusiasm and joy.

**PLATINUM JUBILEE:** Hearty congratulations to the animator and the entire Educating Community of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur who celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the House, on 8 December 2021. As we rejoice with our Sisters for the wonders our blessed Mother has done, we pray that the house may be replenished with her blessings and graces.

**PRAYERS ASSURED:** We prayerfully accompany our Salesian Fathers as they are preparing themselves for the Provincial Chapter. The Provincial Chapter of the Province of Tiruchirapalli will be held in the Retreat Centre of Shrine Basilica of Annai

Velankanni, Nagapattinam. The Provincial Chapter of the Province of Chennai will be held from 10 to 15 January 2022. May our Blessed Mother guide and lead them in their Chapter Journey to a new and wider horizons.

**PRIESTLY ORDINATION:** We extend our prayerful greetings to all the Deacons who will be ordained during this month all over India. We prayerfully accompany the eight deacons of INT who will be ordained on 29 December 2021 at Mary Help of Christians Shrine, Amsam, Trichy by Most Rev. Arokiaraj Savarimuthu, the Bishop of Tiruchirapalli. May they remain joyful in their commitment to the Lord and His people.

#### **OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION:**

- To Sr. Fernando Majella - the animator of FX, Broadway, Sr. Susaimuthu Arul Mary - Animator of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirapalli and all the Sisters of these two communities who hosted the meeting for the transmission of GC XXIV followed by the General Assembly of the sisters. We appreciate 56 and 58 Sisters who participated in the meeting with commitment and love from 19 to 21 November and from 30 November to 2 December respectively in Broadway and Tiruchirapalli. We also thank Sr. Majella and community for creating a conducive ambient to host the Provincial Council in Broadway from 22 to 23 November 2021.
- To Sr. Stella Potteparambil and Sr. Clara Saminathan - INC the past and the present National Coordinators for Education respectively in realizing the dream of PCI to get from the Government of India the Registry of Trade Mark “ Auxilium Group of Schools (Salesian Sisters on 16 October 2021.

#### **LET'S CELEBRATE - DECEMBER 2021**

03	-	St. Francis Xavier
05	-	Blessed Philip Rinaldi
08	-	Immaculate Conception
10	-	International Day of Human Rights
25	-	Christmas
26	-	The Holy Family
27	-	St. John the Apostle
28	-	Holy Innocents

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

06.12.2021	Online Meeting - PCI
09 .12.2021	Online meeting - Guidelines on writing Chronicles
10.12.2021	Online meeting - Synodality
13.12.2021	Online Meeting - Docibilitas
16.12.2021	Provincial Council visit to Therespuram and M . Saveriarpuram
17-18.12.2021	Provincial Council – Puthenthurai
26.12. 2021 to 02.01. 2022	The First Annual Retreat

#### **OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE AND PRAYERS**

- To Sr. Elizabeth George and Sisters of the Province of Shillong at the demise of Sr. Mary Kadiceeny (75) on 22 November 2021

- To Sr. Nirmala Lazar and the Sisters of the Province of Chennai at the passing away of Sr. Anthoniappan Celine (82) on 24 November 2021.
- To Fr. Joyce Mathew and confreres of the Province of Bangalore at the demise of Fr. Dominic Veliath SDB (79) on 27 November 2021.
- To Fr. K.M Jose and confreres of the Province of Chennai at the sudden and tragic death of Fr. Suresh Xavier SDB on 06 December 2021.

Let us also pray for Sr. Asirvatham Amalorpavam whose second death anniversary falls on 19 December.

As we conclude the year of St. Joseph, may we grow in our love for this great saint, and implore his intercession and imitate his virtues and his zeal.

We take this opportunity to greet you with a very happy and grace-filled Christmas. The Lord had been gracious in accompanying each one of us in our journey. Let us thank God for the year filled with so many graces, protection and signs of His love. I conclude with the words of MM from her conference at the end of 1880: “If we are holy Sisters, Providence will not fail us, but will become more and more abundant, so that we can do even more good... Let us be genuine Sisters, and let the New Year be for all one of new life.”

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret  
Provincial.



*“For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son.”*