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Dearest Sisters,

Affectionate Greetings from Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirapalli.

The life Captivated in love

Blessed Maria Romero Meneses was a modern-day social reformer who brought about a “revolution of charity” in Costa Rica. She was born in Nicaragua in 1902, one of eight children who grew up in an upper-class family. Maria received a very good education at a school staffed by the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians.

When she was 12 years old, Maria fell sick with rheumatic fever and struggled throughout the year to regain her health. She was completely paralyzed for six months but was patient and prayerful in her suffering, which she saw as a gift from God. Doctors reported that her heart was damaged from the sickness, but she appealed to Our Lady, Help of Christians, and received some sort of assurance that she would be healed. When a friend from the school visited her, she said, “I know that the Blessed Virgin will cure me.” A few days later, she regained her health and returned to school, fully recovered.

A spiritual director helped her to understand better the mystical experiences she was having, and she realized that she was being called to religious life. Maria began to understand her purpose in life – to encourage social development by helping wealthy people see how they could change the lives of poor people. She gathered resources and established recreational centres and food distribution organizations. In 1961, she opened a school for poor girls; a few years later, a clinic and supported it by recruiting doctors and finding donations for medicine.

She had a vision to build a village for poor people that contained all they needed to flourish. In 1973, the first seven homes were built in a new development outside of the city named Centro San José—it grew to include a farm, a market, and a school where people could learn the faith and find job training. It also included a church dedicated to Our Lady, Help of Christians.

Blessed Maria Romero Meneses would say; “All of myself for all peoples”. We can trace ten salient aspects about Blessed Maria Romero:

1. She was one of the Patron Saints of World Youth Day Panama 2019
2. The love of Sister Maria Romero for Jesus and Mary Help of Christians was so deep that she called them “My King” and “My Queen”
3. She loved the Church and she gave herself totally with the firm conviction that the Church has a mission that will mark history.

4. Sr. Maria had a profound ecological sense. She loved all of creation and one could say that her ecological habits were ahead of her times.
5. She also loved life and the family. That's why she tried to care and promote vocations to marriage and ensure that each member of the families is cared for.
6. Through music and artistic expression, Sister Maria found a way to connect with God and to respond to his love.
7. She was an active woman, but she also found the flame of love in prayer and contemplation to carry out her mission.
8. Sister Maria deeply loved her vocation as a consecrated Daughter of Mary Help of Christians which she discovered as a girl.
9. Although she was a Nicaraguan woman, she worked in Costa Rica for forty - six years.
10. She loved multiculturalism valuing the universal richness of the church.

Maria knew that she was participating in God's work, so she had every confidence that her efforts at social development would grow.

She wrote in her journal on the 50 anniversary of her religious profession when she was seventy-five. ***“How happy exchange! In place of my father, you have given me yourself. In place of my mother, the Blessed Mother. In place of my brothers and sisters, the saints. In place of my friends, the angels. In place of my country, the whole world and after that heaven. In place of my will, your will. In place of my conflicts, rest and peace in your heart. In place of material riches, spiritual riches. In place of my earthly satisfactions, spiritual delights. In place of the cross, I have encountered you to live and die with you, to praise you eternally.”***

Two years later, when she was on a vacation in her homeland, Nicaragua, she looked out at the ocean and said, “I see God in every drop of water in the sea. How beautiful it would be to die facing the ocean. A couple of hours later, God answered her prayer. She suffered from a fatal heart attack and died on 7 July 1977. She is buried in the chapel in San José. St. John Paul II beatified Sr. Maria Romero on April 14, 2002. She is the first “Blessed” from Central America. May we also learn the lesson of the great exchange, that when we give everything to God, we receive more, much more than we could imagine. It may not be near the ocean today, where you like Sr. Maria could see God in every drop of water, I pray that you may find Him in every moment of your day.

Within The Family:

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle: Very often St. Thomas is referred as doubting Thomas. Like St. Thomas quiet often we too doubt the presence of God in our lives. But each time we believe after a doubt our bond with God is renewed and strengthened. Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI states that The Apostle Thomas' case is important to us for at least three reasons. Firstly it comforts us in our insecurity. Secondly it shows us that every doubt can lead to an outcome brighter than any uncertainty. Once he believed “He overtook the other Disciples”. He brought Jesus to India. Thirdly he brought faith to us. The words that Jesus addressed to him remind us of the true meaning of mature faith. Pope Francis says: He believed not only in the resurrection but in God's boundless love as well. When Thomas's wounded humanity enters into Jesus' wounds, he rises from the dead. The Pope further states: “when God becomes my God... we begin to accept ourselves and to love life as it is”.

On this significant day, we invoke the blessings of God the Almighty and St. Thomas on the FMA and SDB Provinces of Chennai who celebrate the feast of the Province. Through the

powerful intercession of the apostle, we pray that you be filled with the gifts of the spirit to proclaim the good news and recognize the visit of our Lord every day.

Congratulations:

- Our prayerful greetings and appreciation Rt. Rev. Stephen, Bishop of Tuticorin who is appointed by the Congregation of Evangelization of the people as the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Sivagangai on 11 June 2021.
- Our best wishes to Rt. Rev. Savarimuthu Arokiaraj who is appointed as the Bishop of Tiruchirapalli on 29 June 2021. We entrust his new ministry of shepherding the people to the maternal protection of our Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fifteen Colleges Meet: The department of Computer Science, Auxilium Arts and Science College Regunathapuram in association with ASSIST coordinated a webinar meet for the youth of fifteen colleges and their family members hundred in number on the theme “Impact of the pandemic on the lives of Adolescent Girls” on 17 June 2021. Our sincere thanks to the speakers Mr. M.A. Britto, Advocate, Human Rights Activist, Tirunelveli, Ms. Sailaxmi Jeyaraman, Profesional Psychotherapist and Counsellor and Mr. Raja, Advocate, District Court, Tiruchirapalli, who shared their insights and clarified the doubts of the participants.

Seminar for Formees: Anugraha hosted a zoom meeting on Motivation Seminar for formees from 21 - 23 June 2021. All the novices of INM and INT from Manikandam – Divyadhanam took part in the Seminar.

Webinar Meetings for the Headmistresses:

- On 25 June 2021 all the Headmistresses and two teachers from each school participated in the awareness webinar meeting animated by Sr. Fernando Majella, on online classes and Parent Teachers Meeting to be held in each school.
- All the Headmistresses and Sisters from Non-Formal Sectors attended in the online meeting on Pocso Guidelines for a safer online Education animated by Rev. Dr. Maria Charles SDB on 26 June 2021.
- All the Headmistresses took part in the All India Virtual Educators Meet organized by Kristhu Jayanthi College Bangalore from 12 – 21 June 2021 on the theme “Upskilling and Reskilling - Redefining the future of the School Education.”

National Development Forum Orientation Meeting: An online orientation meeting was animated for the National Development Forum Coordinators by Rev. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ. Twenty-four participants from all the seven Provinces participated in the meeting on 9 June 2021 on effective documentation of our actions. From our Province, Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, Sr. Raja Clarencia Mary, Sr. Joseph Pretencia, Sr. Devadoss S. Soniya, Sr. Amalraj Rebecca, Sr. Gnanamani Mary, Sr. Alexander Roselin Preethi, Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha benefitted from the meeting.

Covid reach out: Paying heed to the voice of Jesus “I was hungry, you gave me to eat” (Mt 25:35) Sr. Medabalimi Josephine and Community in collaboration with CRI took the initiative to feed one thousand five hundred starving sisters and brothers at Kanyakumari Government Medical College Hospital Asaripallam from 19 – 21 June 2021.

With the instrumentality of the Development Office, Tiruchirapalli, we were happy to share Rs. 13,00,000 worth of medical pieces of equipment with Enamkulathur Primary Health care Centre, Tiruchirapalli, Manikandam in the presence of Mr. Pazhaniandi, Member of

Legislative Assembly belonging to Srirangam Constituency. Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi handed over Rs. 1,350 to the Mr. Pazhaniandi, the money saved by children belonging to Neighbourhood Children's Parliament to be donated to Mr. Stalin the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu towards Corona relief fund on 29 June 2021. Thanks to the providence through which we were able to gift dry ration for hundred families through the Block Revenue Inspector.

Hearty Welcome:

- We congratulate Sr. Savari Raj Arockia Sophiya who has completed her two years study on Salesian Spirituality in Madre Ersilia Canta, Italy. She will be returning to our Province on 17 July 2021. A hearty welcome to you dear Sr. Sophiya, as you take up a new mission in Puliadithammam.
- A hearty welcome to you dear Sr. Sebastian Princy as you come from Italy to assume your role as the Assistant of Novices of INM and INT. May our blessed mother accompany you in your new venture.

Cooperators Meet: Thirty-four FMA and SDB delegates participated in the online meeting coordinated by Fr. Joseph Charles and Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy on 28 June 2021. Thanks to Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam who shared with them her inspiring talk on Formation.

PCI Meeting: We acknowledge with gratitude Sr. George Elizabeth for coordinating the zoom meeting for PCI Provincials and Delegates of GC XXIV on 18 June 2021. The meeting aimed to discuss the consolidation of the answers to the different inter-provincial conferences, and the good night at the Asian level.

Postulants Retreat: we prayerfully accompany our dear Postulants Arockiasamy Augasta, John Kennady Christin Derina and Sesuraj Jenifer who will be making Annual Retreat from 20 - 23 July 2021 and receive their medals on 24 July 2021 in Sacred Heart Home. At this juncture we appreciate the postulants for their generous 'yes' to the Lord. we gratefully acknowledge the formative accompaniment given by Sr. Devadoss Margaret and Community, May the Lord bless our Provinces with holy Vocations.

Installation of the Animators: We congratulate and implore God's choicest blessings on the following Animators as they were installed in the communities listed below:

Name	Community	Date
Sr. Rayappan Selvi Cecily	Coimbatore, Narasipuram – S. Giuseppe	19.06.2021
Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy	Tuticorin, Therespuram – S.Teresa di Gesu Bambino	22.06.2021
Sr. Michael Arokia Sujatha Mary	Madras, George Town – Madonna della Strada	26.06.2021
Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya	Tiruchirapalli, Vadakkupaganoor – S. Giuseppe	27.06.2021
Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary	Tiruchirapalli, Manikandam - Maria Ausiliatrice	30.06.2021
Sr. Devaraj Jeya Rani	Tuticorin, Saveriarapuram – S. Francesco Saverio	10.07.2021

Our sincere thanks:

- To Sr. Peter Selvarani, the General Coordinator who animated the google meet on 4 June 2021. Thanks to Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam who gave a crispy introductory talk on walking an extra mile with a smile. We also acknowledge with gratitude all the team members who presented a short report coupled with suggestions and plans for the future.
- To Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam, the Province Coordinator for VIDES, who animated an online meeting for the ten facilitators and twenty-eight VIDES members to evaluate and plan on 6 June 2021.
- To Sr. Rathnasamy Regina – ISS FMA Asia Core Group Member who coordinated a zoom meeting on 6 June 2021 in collaboration with Sr. Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Rev. Sr. Ivon Goulart, Lopes, Co-ordinator for the Sector for Higher Education, Sr. Pfozhumai Neli Lolia Annie presented the plan and proposal for the year 2021 - 2022. Sr. Peter Selvarani Principal of Auxilium College of Arts & Science, Sr. Ayundukayam Arockia Malarjothi from Auxilium College of Education, Regunathapuram participated in the meeting.

Let's Celebrate July 2021

- 03 St. Thomas the Apostle of India
- 06 St. Maria Goretti
- 07 B. Maria Romero
- 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 St. Mary Magdalene
- 26 SS. Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM
- 28 St. Alphonsa Mathathupadathu
- 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola

Our Heartfelt Condolences And Prayers:

† To Provincial and the confreres of IND at the passing away of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Xalxo on 11 June 2021.

† To Sr. Antony Rajapushpam and Sr. Antony Regina and Family at the demise of their beloved mother Mrs Rosammal (92) on 15 June 2021.

†. To the Provincial and Confreres of Chennai at the demise of Rev. Fr. Antonysamy Soosairathnam SDB (62) who died on 23 June 2021 due to a massive heart attack.

† To Sr. Arokiasami Ofelia and family at the demise of her elder Sr. Victoria Mary (87) - on 2 July 2021.

As we have commenced the new academic year, we remain united in prayer, and in the joy of sharing in the saving mission of Jesus among the young people, we invoke God's blessings on each one of you, as we pray in the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whose feast we celebrate on 31 July 2021: ***“O my God, teach me to be generous to serve you as you deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fear of being wounded, to work without seeking rest and to spend myself without expecting any reward but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will amen.”***

Yours affectionately,



*Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret
Provincial.*