



## PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF SNOW PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

AUXILIUM PROVINCIAL HOUSE, SALESIAN SISTERS,  
MADURAI MAIN ROAD, MANIKANDAM, TIRUCHIRAPALLI – 620 012

Cir. No. 27

SEPTEMBER 2019

Viva Gesu`!

*“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places.” Is 32:18*

A song of joy and gratitude well up from our hearts as we celebrated the twin celebrations - firstly the Golden Jubilee celebration of our dear Sr. Kumbukal Rosa, Sr. Vincent Mary, Sr. Periyapuram Bridget and Sr. Bastian Maria and secondly, the precious tiny seed of Auxilium Provincial House has grown into a stately and peaceful dwelling place inspired by the solicitude of Mary, evoking a creative - audacious response from the entire educating community *to be heralds of hope to the young people*. We place on record our thanks to all the Priests, Religious, Sisters from Bangalore and Chennai Provinces, dear friends, members of the family of our dear Jubilarians, Salesian Family, Educating Community, Teachers, parents, young people, benefactors, well wishers, and our dedicated support staff for being with us, praising and thanking God for His marvelous accompaniment in our journey. Our sincere thanks to all the Animators, Teachers and Students who made this day a meaningful one, through their generous availability and collaboration. A special thanks to Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala – Provincial of INM who with her Council was magnanimous in journeying with us, in supporting us in constructing the Auxilium Provincial House - an abode of gratitude to Mary.

On 8 September we solemnize the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** coupled with the celebration of Girl Child day. This date coincides with the end of summer and harvest, and reminds us that God is faithful to His promises. In Mary, God, has prepared a living temple where His Son, made flesh, wanted to live among us and give us salvation. May all our institutions become happy abodes for all the girl children and may we have infinite joy in accompanying them to nurture their vocation and realize God’s plan for them. On this beautiful day we also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Velankanni. Thousands of people throng to her shrine to give thanks to God and seek Mary’s blessings. May Mary touch the lives of all her devotees who flock to the shrine this year and bring them peace, joy, hope, healing, happiness and holiness. **A happy birthday to Mary! A happy feast to all, particularly to those who bear her sweet name.**

*Synodal style of Animation and Governance  
in the life of Maria D. Mazzarello*

Maria Mazzarello’s position as the eldest child in a large family allowed her to develop her talent for leadership early in life. However she showed some traits that, if not controlled, could have made her quite unpopular in such a role. She tended to be domineering, stubborn

and impatient. She was fortunate in finding a good spiritual director Fr. Pestarino who, from an early age, taught her to channel her leadership qualities to good and to modify those tendencies that had a negative effect on her relations with others. He asked her to give in to her brothers and sisters and to her friends when it was not a matter of principle. At first she admits that this was very difficult and would blush when contradicted and have to bite her lip not to give a quick answer. But with constant effort, she learned to be more flexible and less bossy. He also encouraged her to practice patience even when working alone. This was a good preparation for leadership roles in adult life because it made her more approachable and pleasant to deal with.

After her illness we find her taking the lead in finding a new and useful role for herself and her friend Petronilla. She had the vision to see the local need and to work out a practical way of reaching their goal. It was she who came up with the idea of learning dressmaking and setting up a sewing school. After the sewing school came the little hospice for those who needed somewhere to live and the Sunday Club or Oratory to entertain the girls on Sundays, when there was nothing for them to do. When Don Bosco came on the scene and began to move the little group towards the beginnings of a religious order, she was the first to give herself wholeheartedly to his dream. She also showed the ability to interest others in her vision and to motivate them to work with her in its fulfillment. It was she who asked Petronilla to join in her initial project, and she would again encourage her to follow Don Bosco's plans for them. She showed herself so capable in discerning those who had the gifts needed for sharing in the mission of the Salesian Sisters that some even went as far as to claim that she could read the future. One Sister states: "I know that she said certain postulants would not continue in the Institute: There were others who wished to leave, and she persuaded them to stay, assuring them they would be happy if they remained. I know some of these now, who are still in religious life and are very happy."

All through her life she worked towards the growth and development of her vision of dedication to the evangelization of young people through education. She prepared those who were destined to carry the Salesian Charism into far off mission fields and ardently wished to be a missionary herself. She longed to visit them in their mission work and when this was not possible she supported them by means of constant letters, in which she showed her interest in each sister and in the progress of their work. The role of leader may have much to do with vision, but it also requires the ability to discover people who are capable of living and developing that vision, motivating them, and empowering them to reach their full potential. For her leadership was more a question of helping people to discover and live by God's plan for them. She wanted each one of her Sisters to grow in spiritual maturity

As a leader, she appreciated what is good, challenged and empowered people to grow. She assigned duties to the Sisters with an accurate maternal discernment, in proportion to their physical, intellectual, and moral strength. If she recognized that one of her daughters was called to special holiness she put her whole heart into guiding her in the difficult path of developing a strong spirit. A conversation that took place between Maria and Enrichetta's little sister, then a boarder in Mornese, illustrates her handling of both the beginner and the more advanced. "Mother, why do you treat my sister like that, while you are so gentle with me?" "you see, your sister is strong in virtue and takes everything in good part. She can gain merit and become ever more virtuous. We have an understanding between us. You instead are still too delicate; you would not be able to take half of what your sister can."

As a leader she was always aware of her own weakness and ready to admit that she too needs to work on her ongoing personal growth. When it came to the running of the community she

actively encouraged the contribution of all. Petronilla remembers that: "Mother nearly always said that if anyone knew of anything that wasn't working out very well, or something that could be improved she should feel free to tell her. Mother was most willing to look for the best way of remedying the situation. While she was well known for her collaboration and support for those in authority, she was also quite capable of expressing her opinion respectfully but clearly when she did not agree with a decision that was being taken.

She viewed problems with a sense of proportion. On one occasion the Sisters at Borgo San Martino refused to accept their new community leader and elected one of their own. Maria said nothing for a while, leaving them to reflect on what had happened. Then she visited them, presented the regularly appointed leader. To one very young member of the community who was only partly aware of all that had happened she commented: "You did well not to involve yourself. Be careful though not to think ill of anyone: these things happen without reflection."

She, who was so aware of her own fragility and weakness, was extremely understanding of the weaknesses of her sisters: "Are you peaceful and cheerful? I don't want you to think any more that you have caused me displeasure: I am not displeased with you in any way." Speaking about good example she says: "If I always give good example to my Sisters, things will always go well. If I love Jesus with my whole heart, I will know how to lead others to love Him."

We hear a lot of talk about leadership today, about the crisis in leadership, about the qualities needed to be a good leader. When we do stop to look at Jesus, what a lot there is to learn. He had a clear vision of what His leadership entailed. He saw Himself as one sent to preach the Good News to the poor, to set the people free from their bonds, and to empower them to become children of God. Jesus chose Peter to continue His work as leader. He certainly did not possess the usual qualities we look for in potential leaders. He was not highly qualified, was not prudent, nor courageous or consistent. He was so weak that he denied Jesus. When Jesus came back after Resurrection, he expected that he would choose another leader. He was almost ready to suggest John, but all Jesus asked was "Do you love me?" Jesus made him understand that love is the only source of strength needed to lead. Jesus gives us a message strong and clear. If we want to be a leader according to Jesus' heart, all we need is to believe in His freeing and enabling love and to communicate that same love to all those we meet. Whether we are in formal leadership roles or not, we all have some leadership responsibility in our lives. How can we become a better leader?

### *Within The Family:*

**PCI 2019:** The FMA-PCI 2019 Annual Meet was held at FMA Outreach, Lurshai, Shillong from August 20 - 22, 2019. Twenty nine participants hailing from seven Provinces and Sr. Teresa Joseph - General Coordinator of the Centenary Team were present for the meeting. The theme of the meeting was: "Do whatever He tells you." Jn 2:5 "Communities that generate life in the heart of Contemporaneity". The PCI National Coordinators of Formation, Social Communication, Mission Ad/Inter Gentes, Salesian Family, Social Development, Women Empowerment, Youth at Risk, Education and Youth Pastoral sectors presented their report. Sr. Joseph Teresa gave a power point presentation on the topic "Towards FMA Centenary Preparation" followed by a discussion to correlate PCI themes for the Centenary with that of the 150 anniversary of the Foundation of our Institute referred by Mother General in her Circular 989. Sr. D'Cunha Celine and Sr. Saminathan Clara presented the Highlights of Draft New Education Policy-2019 and gave some preventive measures to be taken in our

Educational Institutes. In the afternoon there was a business session followed by some suggestions for PCI from the National Coordinators. On the final day of the meeting, the emphasis was laid on the purview of the way to answer the GC XXIV questions and an evaluation of the Proposals of PCI 2017 lead by Sr. Lucy Rose. During the good night on each day, all the Provinces had an opportunity to present an event of significance in the Province. Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the presiding General Councillor during the PCI Meet gave a stimulant starter to each day with her inspiring talk on the theme of the Chapter. Our heartfelt thanks to Sr. Shadap Happyline Mary the Animator and her community at FMA Outreach, Sr. Kharkongor Christina the Animator, Sr. Pyngrope Rosa the Novice Mistress, Sisters and the Novices of Bellefonte, Sr. Shangliang Marvella the Animator, Sisters and Pre Aspirants of Auxilium Provincial House Nongthymmai, Shillong for their welcome, hospitality and joy in sharing the rich heritage of Salesian Family Spirit. May the decisions taken during the PCI meet help us to make a significant journey in line with the theme of our General Chapter XXIV. I owe my gratitude to Sr. Lucy Rose for her gentle and constant availability during the PCI meet; to Sr. Elizabeth George the Provincial of INS who made all the arrangements for the PCI; and to Sr. Ambrose Little Flower the PCI Secretary for her meticulous presentation of the report of each day and the follow up work.

*Renewal Course for Silver Jubilarians:* Sr. Joseph Juli Nirmala, Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani and Sr. Savarimuthu Annamanickam will take part in the Renewal Course for Silver Jubilarians from 2 -15 September in Don Bosco Yuva Prachodini, Bangalore. As we congratulate them for their 25 years of fidelity, let us implore God's blessings on them. May they have a fruitful experience.

*Exposure programme:* The Second Year Novices will go for an exposure programme to Thuvaramkuruchi Village from 11 - 20 September 2019.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Pacific Region Congress:* Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia responsible for the Past Pupils in the Province, and Mrs. Irudaya Mary the President of Past Pupils Unit belonging to Broadway will take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Pacific Region Congress of the FMA Past Pupils from 9 - 13, October 2019 in Thailand. As we greet them bon voyage, we implore God's blessings on them so that they may share their experience and revive the Past Pupils to become protagonists of transformation.

### *Thanks and Appreciation:*

- To Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela and the Community of Manikandam for facilitating the Juniors Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 for 31 Juniors of INM and INT Province. Mrs. Asha Shirin, the social activist animated the day on the values of discipleship, venturing into an inward journey and evoking a self-conscious response in seeking God alone. Fr. Michael Raj a Diocesan Priest from St. Paul's Seminary gave a talk on "Do whatever He tells you." A special thanks also for collaborating generously for the Blessing of the Provincial House, the Golden Jubilee of our four Sisters at Manikandam, Tiruchirapalli on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 and Animators and Commission Meet on 1 September 2019.
- To Sr. Barbon Arokia Jebamani and the Community of Dindigul - Ulagmapatti in joyfully hosting the Formation meeting for the NCP members. The sessions were animated vibrantly by Miss Subathra and Mr. Jaghir from ASSIST on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

- To Fr. Santhanam and community of Salem for making all the arrangement to animate the Ongoing Formation meeting on PAL by Mr. Xavier and Mr. David for the Promised Cooperators on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019.
- To the animators Sr. Fernando Majella, Sr. Antonyswamy Suganthy, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya and Sr. Poobalarayen Nirmala and communities who helped the Sisters to be spiritually rejuvenated through the Tri-monthly Recollection held at Broadway, Sirudur, Manikandam, Therespuram and Wellington respectively on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Suganthy and Community of Madurai, Sirudur for accommodating INM and INT Formators for the Formators Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 and to animate the Catechetical Seminar for the Catholic youth by Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- To Sr. Fernando Majella and the Community of Broadway for making all the arrangement to animate the Human Rights seminar for Teachers of Chennai zone on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- To Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jaya and Community for availing all the resources to conduct Human Rights Seminar for Teachers belonging to South zone at Therespuram on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 and Past Pupils Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 on “ Volunteerism” by Fr. Arnold Mahesh.
- To Fr. Doss Kennedy - Rector of Madurai – Lourdes Shrine for generously making all the arrangement to animate the Initial Formation programme for the Aspirant Cooperators of Madurai, Salem and Tuticorin zones on 17 August 2019. The meeting was animated by Mr. Peter Thiraviyam, Mr. Dolar and Mr. Amalraj.
- To Fr. Susai Amalraj, the Rector of AMSAM, Tiruchirapalli for availing the place and for making all the arrangements to animate Ongoing Formation Meet for the Cooperators of Trichy zone. Mr. Jesuraj and Mr. Joseph from AMSAM and Mr. Vijayan from Lalgudi animated their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

### *Days of Importance – September 2019*

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| 5  | St. Theresa of Calcutta                   |
| 08 | Birth of our Blessed Mother               |
| 12 | Holy Name of Mary                         |
| 14 | The Exaltation of the Cross               |
| 15 | Our Lady of Sorrows                       |
| 21 | St. Mathew                                |
| 24 | Our Lady of Ransom                        |
| 29 | Archangels - Michael, Raphael and Gabriel |

### *Forthcoming Meetings In The Province – September 2019*

01-15	Ashram Experience for Aspirants	Mannivakkam
06	Media for Social Change	Puliadithammam, V. Paganoor, Manikandam, Puthenthurai
07	NCP Formation Meeting	Wellington
13	Media for Social Change	Wellington, Tiruppur, Coimbatore
13- 15	In person Training – Master Trainers	Mannivakkam
19	Awareness on Gender based violence	Coimbatore
21	Co-operators Meet	Tiruchirapalli, Kallukuzhi
26	Media for Social Change	Marialayas
27	Leadership Training	Thuvarankurichi
28	NCP Leadership Training and Media Animation	Thuvarankurichi
28-29	Provincial Council	Regunathapuram
29-01Oct	Life Skill Education – II Training	Mannivakkam

### *Our Heartfelt Condolences and Prayers*

- † To Sr. Rose Ezarath and the Sisters of Kolkata over the passing away of Sr. Teresa Theruvamkunnel (86) on 16 August 2019.
- † To Fr. K.M. Jose and the Confreres of Chennai at the demise of Fr. Cedric Bout SDB (102) on 17 August 2019.
- † To Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala and Sisters of INM at the demise of Sr. Soosai Maria Theresa (71) who passed away on 11 August 2019 and Sr. James Glorina Rita (59) on 20 August 2019.
- † To Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot and the Confreres of Shillong Province at the passing away of Fr. K.J. Joseph (69) on 25 August 2019.
- † To Sr. Jacob Celine and Sisters of INK over the passing away of Sr. D'Silva Lorenzia (98) on 27 August 2019.

May the dear departed enjoy the bliss of Paradise.

I take this opportunity to greet all the teachers working in the Formal and Non Formal Sectors a very happy Teachers Day. As 21<sup>st</sup> century educators let us become lifelong learners, anticipate the future, foster peer relationships, teach and assess all levels of learners, and discern effective vs. non effective technology. May this Teachers Day enable us to train our young people on the path of growth and outreach.



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret  
Provincial