



Province of St. Mary Mazzarello

FMA PROVINCIAL
MUMBAI

Provincial Office, Auxilium, P.B. 19877, Bandra, Mumbai 400 050

INB/VII/21/17

April 2017

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Provincialate, Bandra!

We are drawing closer to the conclusion of this beautiful and meaningful season of Lent, during which, I am sure each one of us has taken up daily practices of spiritual calm, where God has been at the centre. Living lent daily, opens a portal to God's loving and grace filled presence in the midst of our busy lives. Have you ever thought of the *Season of Lent* as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks, to take a long, loving look at our lives; to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's designs for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes the second chance, to return to God with our whole heart.

Every community would have highlighted some most needed Community commitments, to make our journey through lent fruitful. Lenten practices like penance, sacrifice, discipline and self-denial may portray or suggest that Lent is something to be endured, but for us Christians it is a time of grace and spiritual growth. Soon we will be stepping into the Holy Week, during which, this Holy Season reaches its climax. The Holy Week itself is a journey within a journey. It is in fact the most important journey of our Lord "His Paschal mystery". We recall the stages of Christ's passing from this world - It was a solemn passage through loneliness, betrayal, injustice and brutal suffering, a movement from life to death. So Holy Week means accompanying Christ on his final journey, bearing our own crosses in trusting silence, by embracing our own loneliness, depression and struggles in faith.

Palm Sunday:

As Jesus rides into Jerusalem, He is surrounded by people shouting, "Hosanna" with the waving of palm branches, but Jesus does not look at the excited crowd. He does not wave, but sees beyond all the noise, sees what is ahead of him, an agonizing journey of betrayal, torture, crucifixion and death. There is a deep awareness of the unspeakable pain to be suffered, but a strong determination to do God's will. Every time we picture Christ seated on a donkey we are reminded again of our own sins, guilt and shame that led Him to the Cross, and yet we are aware that through, that self-emptying, unto the point of death, Jesus opened for us the doors of Mercy, forgiveness, and compassion.

Maundy Thursday:

John introduces the story of the washing of the disciple's feet with the words "*Jesus loved them till the end*" (John 13:1). The great mystery of the Eucharist is that, God's love is not abstract, but concrete; not as a theory, but as food for our daily life. After washing his disciples' feet Jesus says, "*I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you*" (Jn:13:15) . After giving himself as food and drink, he says, "*Do this in remembrance of me*" (Lk.22:19). Jesus calls us to continue his mission of revealing the perfect love of God in this world. He calls us to total self-giving. He does not want us to keep anything for ourselves. Rather He wants our love to be, as full as radical and as complete as His own. He wants us to bend ourselves to the ground and touch the "*reality*" in each other that most need "*healing*" and wants us to say to each other "*I am with you,*" by this he wants us to become one body and one spirit, united by the love of God.

Good Friday:

Jesus stands before Pilate. He is silent before Pilate. He is silent; he does not defend Himself against any charges made against him. Jesus is handed over to be scourged. He is spat upon and mocked at with the words "Hail King of the Jews". He has become a victim. He no longer acts, but is acted upon. He has entered his Passion. The fear of dying is nothing to be ashamed of. It is the most human of all human fears. Jesus himself entered into that fear, when He entered into His passion. In the midst of all that grief and mourning, there is sweet consolation, there is love pouring out from broken hearts and from the pierced heart of God. The cross of horror became the cross of hope; the tortured body became the body that gives new life; the gaping wounds became the source of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation.

Easter Sunday

Holy Week culminates with the GREAT VIGIL of EASTER. Easter is the mystery of Hope. In the spirit of the Risen Jesus, we are urged during the next fifty days to journey on the 'smooth and peaceful' way full of joy in the certitude that the Lord is living. It is a season of joyous thanksgiving, a prolonged time of celebration and companionship on the Emmaus Road and an opportunity to dispel doubt. Easter brings the awareness that God is active even when His presence is not directly noticed; however Easter announces the news that evil has ultimately been overcome by good. The resurrection of Jesus was a hidden event. Jesus did not rise from the grave to baffle his opponents, to make a victorious statement or to prove to those who crucified Him that He had risen. But Jesus rose as a sign to those who loved Him and followed him that, God's divine love is stronger than death. We have lived these 40 days, a season that helped to breakdown idols and turn our gazes to our loving God; we have every reason to experience the light of Easter. As a community of Easter people let us enjoy the new life that

Christ has won for us. *Happy Easter to each of you!*

World Feast of Gratitude 2017:

We have already begun our spiritual preparation for the Annual Feast of gratitude to Mother General. This year it will be celebrated at Cotonou - Africa in the Western Province of the Mother of God. The theme the province proposed to us is: ***“With an Oratorian heart in the Educating Community, with daring we bring the Joy of the Gospel to the young”***. The theme invites us to grow in the conviction that reality is the place of encounter with God. Our sisters of the AFO province offer us the key to read the theme in the graphic translation of the logo. May our spiritual preparation for the World feast of Gratitude help us to live the spirit of an oratorian heart, with the commitment to bring alive the fervor of the *Da mihi animas*. We express our gratitude to Mother Yvonne and wish her a Happy Gratitude Day. We offer her our heartfelt thanks and assure her of our abundant prayers, good wishes, love, loyalty and above all our commitment to live the theme of the feast in our daily life situations.

World Youth Day - 9th April

World Youth Day 2017 is usually celebrated on Palm Sunday. The theme for the thirty-second world youth Day is *“The mighty One has done great things for me”* (Lk 1: 49). Pope Francis in his message to the young people invites us to reflect on the meeting between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit and charged with joy and wonder. At this meeting Mary bursts forth into a song of praise *“The Magnificat”*. When God touches the heart of a young man or woman, they become capable of doing tremendous things. The “great things” that the Almighty accomplished in the life of Mary speak also to our own life’s journey, which is not a meaningless wandering, but a pilgrimage that, for all its uncertainties and sufferings, can find its fulfillment in God.

Communications:

- ❖ Sr. Rita Mascarenhas participated in AMRAT Governing Body meet for Executive and Regional Co-ordinators from 17th – 20th March 2017 at Karnal in Punjab.
- ❖ Sr. Caroline D’Souza participated in SFINAC Forum on 4th April 2017 at the Salesian Provincialate, Hyderabad.
- ❖ A Vocation Camp will be organized at Ashish Bhavan - Kune, from 3rd – 4th May 2017 for English and Marathi speaking girls, by Sr. Nilima Rodrigues and her team. In case you know of any vocationable girls, you may encourage them to join the camp and inform Sr. Nilima about it. During this holiday season, I also encourage you to visit good Christian families, the cradle of good and holy vocations.
- ❖ A three day *“Youth Pasch”* will organized at Auxilium Girls Promotion Centre – Oros, in collaboration with the Salesians from the 12th - 16th April 2017. We wish the sisters and participants a fruitful experience of the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

- ❖ The Annual Evaluation and Planning Meet (PAC) will be held at MYC-Wadala from 21st – 23rd April 2017. All Community Animators, including the newly appointed ones, as well as PAC members and special invitees, are expected to attend this meeting. Those unable to attend, for whatever reason, should inform me regarding your absence.
- ❖ On the 23rd April 2017 a workshop, for Head Mistresses of Schools and a few sisters, will be organized at Auxilium Convent –Wadala from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.
- ❖ The Questionnaire for Annual Evaluation of the Community Project has been forwarded to you. Kindly submit two copies of your Community report, to the Provincial Office by the 21st April 2017.
- ❖ The **Annual Retreat Batch IV** – the last retreat of the year – will take place at SHTC Nashik from 16th – 23rd May 2017 and will be preached by Rev. Fr. Benzalao Tixiera Sdb. The retreat concludes on 23rd May with the Holy Eucharist, during which the temporary professed sisters will renew their Vows. We wish our Postulants, Novices and Sisters making this retreat a deep Spiritual experience during their encounter with the Lord.
- ❖ All the Junior Professed Sisters will have a day of recollection on 22nd May 2017 at SHTC Nashik, followed by the renewal of their vows on the 23rd May 2017. All junior professed sisters are requested to be at SHTC – Nashik by the evening of 21st May 2017 and can leave on 23rd May after Lunch.
- ❖ **Second Novitiate – Phase II:** Our 6 Junior sisters - Sr. Reshma Rosario, Sr. Sunita Shah, Sr. Kavita Noronha, Sr. Rita D'Souza, Sr. Sajan Gaikwad and Sr. Savita Parkhe will make the II Phase of their Second Novitiate from 19th April – 16th May 2017 at SHTC Nashik. Let us accompany these young Sisters with our prayers, as they prepare themselves for their Perpetual Profession.
- ❖ On 24th May 2017 our 8 Second year Novices: Sr. Motheghar Sanjina, Sr. Bhosale Minal, Sr. Braganza Lavita, Sr. Fernandes Veronica, Sr. Gonsalves Shilpa, Sr. Gonsalves Smitha, Sr. Kemu and Sr. Sambrea Breenel will make their First Profession as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Don Bosco Parish Church – Nashik. It is an occasion of joy for us. While we thank God for these 8 vibrant young sisters, let us accompany them with our prayers and blessings.
- ❖ The following Sisters of our province will participate in the Project Mornese, specially meant for the Community Animators and Formators, to be held in Italy from 1st – 30th September 2017: Sr. Moksha Anthonappa, Sr. Caroline Menezes, Sr. Shaila D'Monte, Sr. Monica Shera, Sr. Sunanda Solanki and Sr. Nayana Vankar. We wish them a fruitful experience as they visit the Centre of the Church and of our Institute. The group will be animated by Sr. Supriya Noronha, Sr. Edna Mary Mac Donald and Sr. Sania Chakre (ING).
- ❖ Sr. Teresa Joseph will be participating in the Seminar for **Missionary Animation and Formation: Initial Proclamation and Salesian Mission** to be organized by the Evangelization and Mission Sector, at Sam Phran – Thailand from 13th – 20th August 2017. We wish her a fruitful experience.

- ❖ Sr. Caroline Menezes, Sr. Rita Evelyn D'Souza, Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva and myself will be making a CHRISTO CENTRIC retreat preached by Fr. Varghese Alangaden, in Indore from 9th- 16th April 2017.
- ❖ The annual 15 day Formation Programme usually held for the Juniors at Lonavla remains cancelled for this year. The Temporary professed sisters should adjust their holidays in such a way, so that they can help in the organization of the Summer Camps either in their own community or any of the neighboring communities.
- ❖ It is the time of holidays for schools. Kindly encourage the young sisters and junior sisters to help in the organization of the summer camps.

Summer Camps will be organized in the different communities as given below:

Date	Community	Date	Community
17 – 26 April	Auxilium - Pali - Bandra	24 April - 12 May	Auxilium Convent - Carona
24 – 29 April	M. Kripa - Madanthyar	17 April – 1May	L.V. Niwas - Ahmednagar
18 – 27 April	Koregaon Park -Pune	18 April – 3 May	Auxilium – Caranzalem
17 – 30 April	Mazzarello Centre-Uttan	17 April – 2 May	Media Smart Club – MYC
03 – 19 April	Mazzarello – Kasarkod	18 April – 6 May	St. F.X. Convent – Benaulim
17 April – 08 May	Ashish Bhavan - Kune	18 April – 3 May	Maria Sharan – Keshnand
17 April – 03 May	Auxilium Convent- Baroda	22 April – 14 May	Auxilium Convent –Wadala
17 April – 13 May	D.B.Y.K – Nirmal	20 April – 6 May	Auxilium Centre - Velim
18 April – 05 May	Auxilium. G. P. Centre-Oros	03 April – 1 June	Pushpanjali – Dakor
18 April – 28 April	A.Y.A. C - Dahanu	17 April – 3 May	Jag Prakash – Pansora
17 April – 30 April	Eusebia Centre - Mundhwa	18 April – 28 April	Auxilium Niwas - Shirva
13 April – 13 May	Mazzarello Summer Outreach Camps – MYC Wadala		

I thank the communities that have taken the initiative to organize summer camps for children and youth. I wish you a fruitful summer apostolate that awakens the “Oratorian Heart” in each of you. May the children and youth who encounter us be enriched and inspired by our loving presence.

Hearty welcome:

To our beloved Mother Yvonne Reungoat, who arrived in India on 3rd April 2017 and will be visiting the Provinces of Shillong and Guwahati until 18th April 2017. We extend a warm welcome to her and wish her a joyful, fruitful and a rich experience of communion in our North-East Provinces. May God accompany her on her journeys and keep her in good health.

Hearty Congratulations to:

Sr. Sheela Furtado who has been honored as best principal by "Umbar" weekly magazine on the occasion of the celebration of its 28th Foundation Day on 14th March 2017.

Sincere appreciation and thanks to:

- ❖ Sr. Magdeline Sequeira who completes her term of office as in-charge of the Social Development Sector of the Province. During the past 8 years as Social Development Co-ordinator, Sr. Magdeline has given her best to this Sector availing of various Government Projects and initiating Social activities through which, the Province has been able to reach out to many children, youth and women of the poorer section of Society. We thank her for her tireless services during these past years. Thankyou Sr. Madgeline!

I also thank Sr. Moksha Anthonappa who has been a close collaborator of Sr. Magdeline and will now take up the responsibility of the Social Development Sector as SDO of the Province. We wish her a fruitful Ministry as she leads and orients the Social Development Sector of the Province.

- ❖ Sr. Anitha Gracias for Organizing the Womens' Fest for about 2000 SHG women from the villages of Belgaum Diocese.
- ❖ Sr. Nilima Rodrigues and Team for organizing a Vocation Camp from 1st - 2nd April 2017 at Uttan, for about 17 girls.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- † Sr. Judith Bothelho at the demise of her Uncle and Aunt in Goa.
- † Sr. Beatrice Monteiro at the passing away of her elder brother Mr. Sylvarius on 16 March 2017.
- † Sr. Krupalata Periera who lost her maternal grandmother on 1st April 2017.
- † Sr. Magnifica Soosai and Sisters of the Chennai Province at the passing away of Sr. Philo Antony Fma, on 29th March 2017.
- † The Provincial and Salesians of the Province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad at the demise of Fr. Gopu Anand Sdb at on 7th April 2017 at Nalgonda.

May the departed rest in Peace and their dear ones find consolation and strength in this moment of loss.

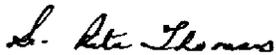
Prayers requested for:

- ❖ The success of the forthcoming women's festival at MYC, Mumbai to be organised by the SDO.
- ❖ The students and student Sisters who are answering various exams these days.
- ❖ Derrick Fernandes, the nephew of Sr. Assumptina Fernandes, whose right leg has been amputated after a major accident a month before and is still in the hospital on his way to recovery.
- ❖ The father of Sr. Teresa Joseph who is suffering from infirmities related to aging.

- ❖ Sr. Alexandra Dias who is recouping from a fall.
- ❖ Our six to be perpetually professed Sisters and Sr. Angeline Fernandes, who are making their a retreat at Muringoor Kerala.
- ❖ Our Senior and Sick Sisters, relatives and friends.
- ❖ For the various needs of the Province and individual sisters and their families.

Divine Mercy Sunday: In the year 2000 AD the feast of the Divine Mercy was decreed a solemnity by Pope John Paul II. This feast calls us to forgiveness and reconciliation. As we let ourselves experience the Mercy of our Father in heaven, let us pray “for the sake of Jesus' sorrowful passion, Abba Father have mercy on us and on the whole world”. Let us intensify our prayers for all those who persecute people in the name of religion and their misguided belief. May the blood of the 'Modern Martyrs' melt the hardened hearts and consciences of all those who perpetuate destruction and terror. Let us entrust to the Divine Mercy of God, our Country and our leaders, that they may seek just ways of bringing peace and harmony and shun all evil intentions of discrimination, hatred and war.

Affectionately,



Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas
Provincial



Itinerary of the Provincial

April 2017

01-02	Koregaon Park, Pune PV
03-04	Maria Sharan – Keshnand PV
05-06	Ashish Bhavan – Kune PV
07	Provincial Office
08	Women’s Festival - Wadala
09-16	Retreat at Indore
17	Provincial Office
18-19	MYC - Wadala PV
20	Provincial Office
21-23	Annual Evaluation and Planning Meet - Wadala
24-25	Provincial Council Meet - Bandra
26	Provincial Office
27-28	A.Y.A.C - Dahanu PV
29	Provincial Office

May 2017

1-11	Personal Work
12-15	Provincial Office
16-24	SHTC- Nashik- Retreat - Bathch IV & First Professions
25	Ahmednagar - Final Profession
26	Provincial Office
27	Madanthyar – Inauguration - New Wing of Hostel
29	Kasarkod - Final Profession
30 -31	Provincial Office