



INB/VII/13/16

July 2016

Cordial greetings from the Provincial house, Bandra!

We are already in the second month of the academic year and all our communities are gradually settling down to life and mission among the young. The month of July is hallowed by various liturgical and Salesian feasts to renew our commitment to our Christian and religious calling. Let us continue this traditional devotional practice of the celebration of Marian Month in all our communities.

Mary the Mother of Mercy, who treasured Divine Mercy in her heart is the true masterpiece of God's mercy in the world. This particular title of Mary appeals to Pope Francis very much. Pope Francis is clearly in touch with the common people and their everyday problems. Addressing a crowd in S. Peter's square, he said, "We know one thing; nothing is impossible for God's mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by his grace. Mary's 'Yes' opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience. Our Blessed Mother patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that He can untangle the knot of our shoulder by His Fatherly mercy. In Mary, God rejoices and is especially pleased. In the prayer *Salve Regina*, most cherished by Christians, the, we call Mary "Mother of mercy." She has experienced the Divine mercy, and has hosted the very source of this mercy in her womb: Jesus Christ. She, who has always lived intimately united with her Son, knows better than anyone what he wants: that all people be saved, and that God's tenderness and consolation will not fail anyone. May Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us to understand how much God loves us.

St. Alphonsa Muttathupadattu: On 28th July we celebrate the feast of St. Alphonsa Muttathupadattu, the first woman saint of India. Pope Benedict XVI who elevated her to sainthood on October 12, 2008, in his homily recalled Saint Alphonsa's life as one of "extreme physical and spiritual suffering". This exceptional woman was convinced that her cross was the very means of reaching the heavenly banquet prepared for her by the Father. By accepting the invitation to the wedding feast, and by adorning herself with the garment of God's grace through prayer and penance, she conformed her life to Christ's and now delights in the 'rich fare and choice wines' of the heavenly kingdom. Her heroic virtues of

patience, fortitude and perseverance in the midst of deep suffering remind us that God always provides the strength we need to overcome every trial."

Participants of Fma-Pci 2016

As you are already aware the FMA-PCI 2016 will be held at the Provincialate – Bangalore from 1st – 4th September 2016 which will be followed by two days of animation for formators. The participants from our province, besides myself, are:

National Co-ordinators: Sr. Hilda Braganza (National Media Coordinator)
Sr. Moksha Antonappa (National Coordinator for YAR)

Province Delegates: Sr. Philomena B. D'Souza (elected by the Province)
Sr. Supriya Noronha (Proposed by the Council)

Invitees (formators): Sr. Salome D'Souza
Sr. Cecilia Crasta

The National Coordinators will have a meeting on the 31st August 2016.

For you to know:

- ❖ Sr. Susan Moraes will be participating in the Asia Ongoing Missionary Formation Course, organised by the Mission Sector and the Salesian Province of Silchar, at Shillong from 1st – 21st August 2016. The Course also includes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 21st – 30th August 2016. We wish her a fruitful and deeper experience of Salesian Missionary Spirituality.
- ❖ We warmly welcome **Sr. Edna Mary MacDonald** and **Sr. Sania Josephine Chakre** (ING) who will be in the Province from 15th – 27th July 2016 to prepare for the Project Mornese 2017 and 2019 together with Sr. Supriya Noronha. We wish them a fruitful and happy stay with us.
- ❖ There will be a course in Effective Spiritual Direction for the Animators of Communities and Councillors from the 14th – 17th July 2016 at MYC Wadala. The resource person will be **Fr. Jose Kuttianmattathil sdb**. On the 17th July 2016 there will be a short interactive session of the Provincial Team and the Animators who have junior professed sisters in their communities.
- ❖ Our Candidates and to be postulants will have a three day retreat from 21st – 23rd July 2016 at Kune. The retreat will be preached by Sr. Joanna Lobo. On the 24th July 2016, 6 aspirants will receive the Postulants Medal and 7 young girls will begin their vocational journey as aspirants. Let us accompany them with our fervent prayers.

- ❖ The course for young sisters (Professed between 2000 – 2007) will be held at Lonavla SJTC from 22nd – 24th July 2016 as announced earlier. Animators kindly give the names and travel details of the Sisters participating from your community to Sr. Cecilia Crasta.
- ❖ We welcome our 4 sisters who have returned after their experience of the Project Mornese and Sr. Antonette D’Souza who has completed her Spirituality Course at the Centre. Sr. Antonette D’souza will resume her role as Headmistress of Auxilium High School - Carona. We wish them a fruitful living of the deep experience at the Centre of the Church and our Institute.
- ❖ Srs. Lucy Rodrigues, Rosy Mascarenhas and Nathal Rodrigues will participate in the Seminar on *Tips and Tools for Inspirational Community Service and Leadership* at NBCLC – Bangalore from 08 – 17 August 2016. We wish them a fruitful experience.
- ❖ Due to unavoidable circumstances the venue for the third batch of Annual Retreat followed by animation on emotional growth to be held from 17th to 25th November 2016 has been changed from SJTC Lonavla to the Community of Dahanu. Hence all three batches of retreats will be held at Dahanu. Kindly note the change in the venue while making your travel arrangements.
- ❖ The World Youth Day 2016 will be held in Krakow, Poland from 25th – 31st July 2016. The theme for WYD 2016 will focus on mercy, one of the topics Pope Francis talks about the most: *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy”* (Mt. 5:7). Let us intensify our prayers for this great event and meaningfully celebrate it with our young people.
- ❖ Vocation facilitators meet for Maharashtra – Gujarat region will be held on 25th July 2016 at SJTC, Lonavla.

Sincere Appreciation and Thanks to

- ❖ The Province Administrator, Sr. Rita D’Souza for organizing a two-day training and meeting for New Bursars of different Communities from 1st – 2nd July 2016 and to Sr. Caroline Fernandes and Community for hosting the meeting.
- ❖ Sr. Hilda Braganza, the National Media Co-ordinator for planning and co-ordinating the Media Workshop at the FMA-PCI level held in Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ Sr. Magdelene Sequeira and team for organising the VTC workshop on 8th and 9th July 2016 and Sr. Angeline Fernandes and community for hosting the same.
- ❖ Sr. Magdeline Sequeira for organizing the YAR staff training programme and to Sr. Meena D’Silva and Community for hosting the same.

- ❖ Sr. Rita Fernandes and team for organizing the Vocation Facilitators meet for Goa-Karnataka Region in Carona on 17 July 2016 and to Sr. Flavia Mascarenhas and community for hosting it.

Congratulations and Best wishes to:

- ❖ **Fr. Felix Fernandes** on his appointment as the Provincial of Panjim Province. Fr. Felix will be inducted as the 3rd provincial of the province of St. Joseph Vaz, Panjim on 1st August 2016. We assure him of our prayers and support as he assumes his new responsibility as provincial.

I also offer my sincere thanks to **Fr. Ian Figueiredo** for all the spiritual animation and support rendered to the Sisters of Goa and Karnataka region during his tenure as the provincial of Panjim Province. We assure him of our prayers for his future mission in the province.

- ❖ Sr. Smitha Monis who has completed her MSW with a first class. We wish her fruitful ministry among the young girls at Koparkhairane.
- ❖ Sr. Philomena B. D'Souza on being elected as the president of ACSSA of South Asia. We rejoice and implore God's blessings upon her new endeavours.

Buon Viaggio: We wish our dear Sr. Anelfreda Miranda and Sr. Mary Chacko Bon Voyage as they leave for Rome on 15th July 2016. We wish them a fruitful experience of service and missionary fervor at the Centre.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ❖ Sr. Florie De Mello who lost her beloved sister Mrs Mercy on the 13th June 2016 at Bhyandar.
- ❖ Sr. Edvige Nazareth, whose dear brother Tony Nazareth passed away on the 15th of June 2016 at Chembur.
- ❖ Sr. Nathal Rodrigues who lost her beloved mother on 13th July 2016.
- ❖ The Salesians of Panjim province at the passing away of Br. E.C. Joseph on 10th July 2016.

May the dear departed enjoy eternal peace and may our Sisters and brothers find strength and consolation in this moment of loss.

Prayers requested for:

- ❖ Sr. Mary Vaz who is recouping after her hip-replacement surgery.

- ❖ Sr. Margaret Misquitta who underwent a surgery and is recouping.
- ❖ Sr. Inocencia Rosario who has undergone an operation on her leg and is recouping in Holy Family hospital.
- ❖ Sr. Pricilla D’Souza who was operated for Kidney stones.
- ❖ The ailing mothers of Sr. Lucy Rodrigues, Sr. Irene Pinto and Sr. Salome D’Souza.
- ❖ The Sister –in- law of Sr. Ines Monteiro
- ❖ For the elderly sisters, sick parents and relatives of our sisters who are in need of our prayers.

“Every soul, and especially the soul of every religious, should reflect My mercy. My Heart overflows with compassion and mercy for all. The heart of My beloved must resemble Mine; from her heart must spring the fountain of My mercy for souls; otherwise I will not acknowledge her as Mine.”(St. Faustina, Diary, 1148).

Dear Sisters, let us open wide the doors of our heart to the joy of mercy and forgiveness, conscious that we have been given new confidence and hope, and thus make our daily lives a humble instrument of God’s love. Let us intensify our corporal and spiritual acts of mercy.

With prayerful wishes,

Affectionately,



Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas
Provincial

Provincial's itinerary:

July 2016

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| 01 | Provincial House |
| 02 – 03 | Ahmednagar (FV) |
| 04 | Bableshwar (FV) |
| 05 – 06 | Maria Vihar (FV) |
| 06 – 08 | SHTC – Nashik (FV) |
| 09 – 12 | Provincial Office |
| 13 | MYC – Wadala (Provincial Council Meet) |
| 14 – 17 | MYC - Wadala (Seminar for Animators of Communities) |
| 18 – 19 | Provincial Office |
| 20 – 21 | Auxilium Lonavla (FV) |
| 21 – 22 | Kune (FV) |
| 23 | SJTC – Lonavla (Seminar for young sisters) |
| 24 | SJTC – Lonavla (Initiation of Postulants) |
| 25 | SJTC – Lonavla (FV) |
| 26 | Koregaon Park – Pune (FV) |
| 27 – 28 | Mundhwa (FV) |
| 29 | Keshnand (FV) |
| 30 - 31 | Provincial Office |

August 2016

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| 1-3 | Provincial Office |
| 4 | Social co-ordinators meet- Wadala |
| 6 | Golden jubilee celebration (MYC – Wadala) |
| 7 | Provincial Council meet – Provincial House |
| 13-14 | Juniors meet, Lonavla |
| 15 | Provincial Office |
| 16-17 | Pansora (FV) |
| 18 | Dakor (FV) |
| 19-21 | Personal work |
| 22 | Baroda (FV) |

23-27

Provincial Office

28 -6 September

Bangalore FMA PCI