



INB/VII/15/16

September 2016

Loving Greetings from Bandra!

Canonization of Mother Teresa of Kolkata:

The 4th of September 2016 was indeed a day of great celebration and rejoicing for the Church and especially for us Indians, when Pope Francis declared our beloved Mother Teresa of Kolkata a Canonized Saint. Mother Teresa opened wide the doors of Mercy and Charity for the poorest of the poor in Kolkata. In this year of Mercy it is right and fitting to recognize and honor the exemplary Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, Mother Teresa was involved in during her lifetime. For her these were not merely works of Mercy, but a sharing in the Jesus' own redemptive "work of love" for the least and the lost. By serving the poor through "small things done with great love", she wanted to imitate Him who came to serve rather than to be served. Speaking about St. Teresa of Kolkata, in his homily on the day of her Canonization, Pope Francis said "*Mother Teresa in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. Mercy was the salt which gave flavor to her work, it was the light which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.*" This emblematic figure of womanhood and Consecrated life will ever be loved and remembered for her charitable work. Apart from being a great intercessor to pray with and for us, she remains a model of holiness for us to follow.

I participated in the *Salesian Family Conference of Major Superiors* along with the other FMA Provincials and Major Superiors of different branches of the Salesian Family from August 29-30, 2016 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Bangalore. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB, the Salesian General Councilor for South Asia, presided over the meeting. The meeting aimed at carrying forward the Common Mission Statement drawn up during the Salesian Family Congress held at Kolkata in September 2015, with special focus on the areas of Networking and Collaboration for a Common Mission among the various branches of the Salesian Family.

Among the many lines of action, the following five areas were prioritized 1) Bonding together as one family (2) Preparing youth for Leadership (3) Ministry for migrant youth (4) Family Ministry (5) Ecology. At the conclusion of the meeting, the book entitled "*Don Bosco in Mangalore before the arrival of the Salesians*" by our very own Sr. Philomena B. D'Souza was released by Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga. Her work was much appreciated by all present.

FMA-PCI - 2016: The seven of us who participated in the FMA-PCI from 01-04 September 2016 at Bangalore had a rejuvenating experience of reliving the history and Charism of our Institute. Sr. Piera Cavaglia focused on the importance of the Historical memory and Types of Sources, inviting each province and each one of us to continue writing our own history for the continuity and vitality of the Salesian Charism. The study of history enables us to know how the Charism has developed in different contexts and what contribution it has made to education, culture, the faith of peoples, cities and nations.

The FMA-PCI was followed by the *Formators meet* on 5-6 September in which Srs. Salome D'Souza, Cecilia Crasta, Supriya Noronha and myself participated. The two days seminar was enriched by input sessions given by Sr. Piera Cavaglia, group discussions, open forum and sharing of personal experiences. The topics dealt with were as follows: Vocation - Gift of grace and a life Plan, Aspects of the spiritual profile of the FMA and The Formator - as a gardener.

We thank Sr. Lucy Rose, the Presiding Councillor for the FMA-PCI 2016, for her enlightening words at the Inaugural Address. We are grateful to Sr. Piera Cavaglia, General Secretary for her excellent animation and Sr. Crescentia D'Almeida and the Community of the Provincial house - Bangalore for the well organized arrangements made to host this meet.

Communications:

- ❖ The book "*Don Bosco in Mangalore before the arrival of the Salesians*" by our dear Sr. Philomena B. D'Souza was solemnly released on 30th August 2016 at the Don Bosco Provincial house-Bangalore by Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam SDB, the Salesian Regional Councilor, in the presence of Sr. Piera Cavaglia, the FMA Secretary General, and the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family. Sr. Philomena's research is a priceless gift to the Salesian family, particularly to us in India. I congratulate Sr. Philomena D'Souza for her valuable work.
- ❖ Sr. Agatha Dias and Sr. Elizabeth Coelho participated in the National Convention on the **National Education Policy** organized by the CBCI Office for Education and Culture, Delhi on 9th September 2016.

- ❖ Sr. Salome D'Souza will be attending a **Course for Novice Mistresses** of the Institute, organized by the Formation Sector, Rome from 3rd to 16th October 2016 at Rome. We wish her fruitful days ahead and an enriching experience at the Centre of our Institute.
- ❖ Sr. Rita Evelyn D'Souza, Province Bursar, will participate in two Meetings in succession, for the Province Administrators, in Rome from 30th October to 25th November 2016. She will leave on the 13th October 2016 to attend a short course in Italian prior to the Meetings. We wish her a fruitful learning experience at the Centre.
- ❖ **Animators Retreat:** The Annual Retreat for Animators and Provincial Councillors will commence on 6th December 2016 at 5.00 p.m and conclude on 12th December 2016. The retreat will be preached by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Menampampil. Kindly send your arrival and departure details to Sr. Cecilia Crasta.
- ❖ The Provincial Visitation to the communities will commence in the month of October 2016. I request the Communities to keep ready all the necessary documents and prepare themselves spiritually for this important encounter. The list of documents to be kept ready will be sent to you by the Province Secretary.
- ❖ I will be participating in the Retreat for the ASIAN - FMA Provincials to be held at Bangkok, Thailand from 11th – 18th October 2016. The Retreat will be followed by a meeting of the Provincials with Mother Yvonne Reungoat. Hence, I will be away from the province from 10th – 24th October 2016. In my absence please refer to the Vice-Provincial, Sr. Agatha Dias for important matters. Do keep me and all the Provincials who will be making this retreat, in your prayers.

Sincere Appreciation and Thanks to

- ❖ Sr. Agatha Dias, the four Communities of Mumbai and the Community of Laura Vicuna Niwas – Ahmednagar for Co-ordinating and Organising the Celebration of the **Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession** of our 4 Jubilarians on the 6th August 2016 at MYC-Wadala. My thanks also to the individual sisters who have contributed in different ways to make this event a memorable one for our sisters.
- ❖ Sr. Wilma De Souza and Sr. Cecilia Crasta for Co-ordinating the **Juniors' Tri-Monthly Meet** at Lonavla from 13th - 15th August 2016 and to Fr. Pravin Severeekar SJ. for conducting the Seminar on *"Emotional Management"* for our 17 Temporary Professed Sisters during their Tri-Monthly Meet.
- ❖ Sr. Hilda Braganza, Sr. Melissa D'Souza and Team for organizing the **Media Seminar** from 19th – 21st August 2016 the **Media festival** on 20th August 2016 at MYC Wadala. Thanks to the Community of MYC for hosting these events.

- ❖ To Sr. Magdelene Sequeira and Team for organizing the **Workshop for Lay Social Workers** from 30-31 August 2016 at Auxilium Youth Animation Centre - Dahanu. Thanks also to Sr. Joanita Antao and the community of Dahanu for hosting the Workshop.
- ❖ Sr. Rita D'Souza and Team for organizing the **Administrators meet** at Baroda and to Mr. Brijesh Shah, our resource person, for his wonderful sessions. Thanks to the Sr. Rita Lobo and Community of Baroda for hosting this event.
- ❖ Sr. Magdelene and the team for organizing the **TEEN Girls Gather** at Dakor and Bableshtar for the Gujarati and Marathi speaking groups on 10th September 2016 and to Sr. Sunanda Solanki, Sr. Catherine Pereira and their respective Communities for hosting the Meetings.
- ❖ Sr. Joanita Antao and team for organizing the **Seminar for the Catechetical Coordinators** at Caranzalem - Goa on 12th September 2016 and to Sr. Teresa Joseph for the input session. Thanks also to Sr. Caroline D'Souza and the Community of Caranzalem for hosting the seminar.
- ❖ Sr. Catherine Fernandes for organizing the **SALFAM (Salesian Family) Local Co-ordinators Meet** at Caranzalem on 7th August 2016 and to Sr. Caroline D'Souza and Community for hosting the same.
- ❖ Sr. Magdelene Sequeira and Team for organizing the **Seminar for Community Animators and Social Work Co-ordinators** on Team building, Capacity building, Reporting and Documentation at MYC-Wadala from 4th – 5th August 2016. Thanks to Sr. Hilda Braganza and Community for hosting the Seminar.
- ❖ Sr. Caroline Fernandes and the Community of Auxilium Centre – Bandra for the utmost care and attention given to Sr. Mary Vaz after she underwent the bi-polar hip replacement until she returned to the Lord for her eternal reward. May the Lord reward you for your generous acts of Mercy and Compassion.
- ❖ The Communities of MYC-Wadala, Auxilium Convent-Wadala, Auxilium Centre-Bandra and individual sisters who helped in making all the funeral arrangements for Sr. Mary Vaz.

Congratulations and Best wishes to:

- ❖ Sr. Rose Ezrath, the provincial of INC on her appointment as the President of the FMA PCI and Sr. Isabella Suja on her nomination as the Vice-President as per the amendment made to the Statutes of the FMA-PCI.
- ❖ Sr. Lydia Komuhra, Sr. Hilda Braganza and Sr. Molly Kaniyambady on being appointed by the FMA-PCI, as National General Co-ordinator, National Media Co-ordinator and National Co-ordinator for Youth Pastoral respectively, for a second term.

- ❖ Sr. Clara Saminathan (INC) on being newly appointed as National Coordinator for Education at the PCI level.
- ❖ Sr. Rashmika Macwan who has passed her Final Year GNM Course with distinction.

Prayers requested for:

- ❖ the father of Sr. Rebecca Thomas.
- ❖ the father of Novice Lavita Braganza.
- ❖ the father of Sr. Nayana Vankar who had a fall and underwent surgery .
- ❖ the father of Sr. Elveera D'Souza.
- ❖ our sick Sisters, Parents and relatives of our Sisters.
- ❖ Sr. Precilla D'Souza who will be undergoing a surgery in Holy Family Hospital.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ❖ Fr. Felix Fernandes and the Salesians of Panjim Province at the passing away of Fr. Romulus Noronha.
- ❖ Sr. Rose Ezarath and the Sisters of Kolkota Province at the demise of Sr. Rose Simon on 15 August 2016.
- ❖ Sr. Crescentia D'Almeida and the Sisters of Bangalore province at the passing away of Sr. Rose Kalliduki on 24 August 2016 at Kerala.
- ❖ Sr. Teresa Joseph at the demise of her Sister-in-law Kuttiamma Abraham on 23rd August 2016 at Kerala.
- ❖ Sr. Teresa John at the demise of her beloved father on 24 August 2016 at Kanyakumari.
- ❖ Sr. Maria Macwan at the demise of her brother-in-law.
- ❖ Sr. Teresa Dharmaraj who lost her first cousin on 11th September 2016.

May the dear departed rest in peace and the bereaved family members be comforted and find strength in this moment of loss.

There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the respect, the love and the devotion come in – that we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we try to do it as beautifully as possible.
– Mother Teresa

I wish all of you a happy month ahead and a sense of fulfillment in all that you do.

With prayerful wishes,
 Affectionately,

Sr. Ritha Thomas

Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas
 Provincial

Provincial's Itinerary

SEPTEMBER 2016

1-6	Bangalore FMA-PCI
7-8	Bangalore- personal work
10-17	Provincial Office
16	Provincial Council Meet, Bandra
18-19	Nandgad
20 – 22	Provincial Office - Bandra
23 -24	Auxilium Wadala
25-26	MYC-Wadala
27-30	Provincial Office